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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Month After

Families took a step toward normalcy a month after a devastating tsunami.

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Cease-Fire

Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi accepts a "road map" for a cease-fire.

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Island Cleanup

Marines and sailors worked through rain, snow, and freezing temperatures to clean Oshima Island.

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'Inappropriate to stop Marpi power poles project now' PAGE 3
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IN ADDITION TO BASE RATE INCREASE:

CUC wants another LEAC rate hike

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Don't look now but the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is asking for not one but two rate adjustments that, if approved, would take effect this month and next.

RELATED NEWS

CUC's collectible from govt now totals \$5.8M.
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Besides the pending petition to adjust its base rates, CUC is also seeking a 22-percent increase in its current leveled energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate, due to unprecedented increases in world oil prices,
See CUC on Page 4



EMPTY SPACES

Legislative Bureau's computer operator Syl Sablan and Senate legislative assistant Ton Aguon use water blaster to clean the empty parking spaces designated for some members of the House of Representatives yesterday afternoon, as part of the preparation for the Youth Congress's inaugural session on Saturday. Only at least one of the lawmakers whose parking spot is shown in this photo was at the Legislature yesterday afternoon, but he parked his car at a different spot that is shaded.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Another Rota casino investor pays \$150K investigation fee

» Other remains temporarily closed 'for renovation'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A second group of investors interested in opening a casino on Rota has paid a

\$150,000 investigation fee to the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, which is expected to wrap up its investigation in July or August to determine whether a license to operate a casino would be granted.

At the same time, the first casino investor on island—Rota Treasure Island Casino—remains temporarily closed as of yesterday.

The commission said the reason cited

for temporary closure is "renovation" needed at the facility.

Alfredo Antolin, executive director of the Rota Casino Gaming Commission, confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. See CASINO on Page 4



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Local

Deadline to file financial statement nears

» **24 agencies yet to provide updated list of execs needed to file financial statements**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor or the Department of Finance has yet to receive from 24 government entities an updated listing of their organizations to determine the number of elected and appointed officials who are required to file their statement of financial interest for calendar year 2010, barely two weeks before the initial May 1 deadline for filing such documents with OPA.

In previous years, the number of required filers was over 300 annually. In 2009 alone, the figure reached 384.

Public auditor Michael Pai said yesterday that information from government agencies, departments, divisions, boards, commissions, councils, and task forces will enable Finance "to develop an accurate list of those officials who need to file a statement for calendar 2010 as required by the [Government Ethics Code] Act."

As of yesterday, he said "24 entities have not yet submitted their complete listings to either [Finance] or OPA."

"OPA urges these entities to provide their complete and updated listings to DOF or OPA as soon as possible, as the initial deadline for filing is fast approaching," Pai said in an email response to *Saipan Tribune*.

Pai, nevertheless, informed "all individuals who know that they are required to file a statement to please do so before the



May 1st initial deadline. Free notary service is available at OPA for this purpose."

OPA has been receiving an average of 10 filers as the May 1 deadline draws near.

OPA's Ethics and Compliance Unit analyst Wilma Atalig said they received the first few filings as early as December 2010. Since then, filers have been coming to OPA to submit their 2010 statement of financial interest.

But OPA expects to see a surge in filings close to the May 1 deadline.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) filed his statement of financial interest for 2010 at 3:40pm yesterday at the OPA office on Capital Hill.

"This is my eighth filing since I got first elected. I hope others won't forget to file theirs," he told *Saipan Tribune* after OPA's administrative assistant Michelle Camacho received the documents from him.

Atalig also said that OPA will be sending representatives to Rota and Tinian toward the end of April to receive filings from Rota and Tinian officials, and provide free notary services as well.

Under 1 CMC §8511 of the Government Ethics Code Act, all elected and appointed Commonwealth officials, judicial officers, and executive department heads or directors are required to file a Statement of Financial Interest.

There is a 30-day grace period after the initial deadline of May 1. Failure to file a properly completed and verified statement by May 31 is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$10 per day for periods of delinquency.

The statement of financial interest includes government officials' income, and financial interests in real estate, among other things.

But unlike many other jurisdictions, CNMI law does not make public financial statements. The assets and liabilities of elected officials are not readily available for public inspection. OPA can only release the documents with consent from the filer.

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

A Clean Environment for All

The natural beauty of Saipan, Tinian and Rota are one of the main reasons visitors come to our islands. A clean environment can be enjoyed year round by residents and tourists, alike. This month residents can help keep our islands clean and attractive by join activities of the 28th Annual Environmental Awareness Month.

The **Division of Environmental Quality** is organizing an "**Island-wide Cleanup**" on Friday, April 15, from 2-4:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 16, from 8-10 a.m. This is an opportunity to get your office, club, school, or friends outside and doing something to help keep our island beautiful and healthy. Supplies such as trash bags and sanitation gloves will be provided on-site. To get involved, contact Jose Kaipat at the Division of Environmental Quality, 664-8540 or mail to josekaipat@deq.gov.mp.

The "Island-wide Cleanup" is a great way to help prepare the islands for the **Golden Week** travel holiday beginning in late April and celebration of May **Tourism Month**. Mark your calendars, and don't miss this opportunities to get involved and keep the islands clean for both residents and tourists to enjoy.

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CUC's collectible from govt now totals \$5.8M

» **Execs deny special treatment; claim collectibles no bearing on proposed rate hike**

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To date, the CNMI government owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. \$5.8 million in outstanding power and water obligations, according to utility officials.

That amount, said Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission chair Viola Alepuyo, could be used by the agency to fulfill its obligations and expenses instead of the increase CUC is seeking for its electric base rates.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren told the commission yesterday that of the \$5.8 million receivables, the central government owes CUC \$3.6 million, reflecting unpaid obligations from November 2010 to March 2011.

The Public School System is also behind in its payments covering the period from September last year to March 2011, amounting to \$1.9 million. The

'It would be inappropriate to stop Marpi power poles project now'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Filial administration said yesterday that it would be "inappropriate" to stop the installation of power poles in Marpi now, citing at least four reasons that include the need to supply power to a public cemetery designed to meet the CNMI's burial needs for the next 100 years.

Friends of Marpi's Tina Sablan expressed disappointment yesterday over the administration's refusal to consider alternatives to the power poles, which the group says will destroy Marpi's natural beauty.

She said "the government has refused to afford a single public hearing to the community for a project of this magnitude, in an area on such immense historic, cultural, natural, and scenic significance."

Sablan, a former House representative, said citizens have offered solutions and dialogue.

"Local experts in renewable energy have offered to work together on a cost-effective solution to address power needs in Marpi without compromising the integrity of the area. Tourism officials, environmental advocates, legislators, residents, business owners, and managers have all urged the government to consider more compatible alternatives, and our requests and suggestions have either been ignored or denied," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said "it would be inappropriate for the CIP Office to stop the project now for several reasons," including the CNMI's existing contract that is near completion "and must stay within the con-

Northern Marianas College, meantime, owes CUC some \$120,000, behind by only about two months.

Warren said during yesterday's public hearing on Capital Hill that, unlike other CUC customers, some consideration is being given to the government as a result of the larger social impact that may occur if CUC will disconnect all its offices and departments due to unpaid bills.

It was also learned that during December disconnection of some government offices, CUC did not charge the affected offices any reconnection fee—again in consideration of the government's dwindling financial status.

CUC rules require it to give a 30-day disconnection notice to customers. Once a customer is disconnected, CUC charges a reconnection fee once the customer pays the outstanding account. This is one source of revenue that helps CUC in its

operation and other needs.

Alepuyo, during yesterday's hearing, took exception to the kid-glove treatment the government gets from CUC.

"I may not be as smart as you are, but I don't see how you're coming to the commission for an increase when you can generate more revenue. There are people that owe CUC money and are not being collected. Maybe it would take time for me to absorb it, but that's basically how I am feeling right now," Alepuyo told CUC officials yesterday.

"Why is that some \$3.6 million receivable continue to receive power from CUC?" asked Alepuyo, comparing the situ-

ation to ordinary CUC customers who endure living without power when disconnected and diligently paying the reconnection fee once they settle their arrears.

Saipan Tribune learned that on average, CUC can generate over \$1.1 million in monthly revenue from the government after CUC officials disclosed that the central government's monthly consumption amounts to about \$800,000 and the Public School System, about \$250,000. NMC, meantime, has an average billing of between \$50,000 to \$60,000 per month.

Warren said the central government has agreed to settle its \$3.6 million obligation with \$250,000 weekly

payments to CUC.

No bearing on base rate hike

Warren said the government's slow payment has no bearing on the amount of money CUC seeks to raise in its petition to increase its base rate.

"When you do a rate case, you look at what revenue needs are. In fact, we used the average 1.2 or 1.4 percent of revenues as a factor in establishing this rate. So this \$5.8 million has no bearing on that factor or the rates," Warren explained to *Saipan Tribune*.

He also assured that CUC is not being pressured by anyone on the government's unpaid obligation, as it is the CUC's discretion that is being used in the matter.

Warren believes that pre-paid meters would help the government streamline its expenses on power and water but admitted that installing prepaid meters to all customers remains a challenge due to the lack of funds for the equipment.

Despite the commissioners' initial reaction to CUC's petition yesterday, Warren hopes the commission will still give CUC's request a positive response.

"I don't want to think about [the petition being denied]... but we would be risking going back to 2008 all over again, not maintaining the engines to sufficient levels and keeping them running, and substantial noncompliance with stipulated orders," he added.



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Cape Air flight suffers mechanical problem mid-air

A number of passengers from Guam became alarmed when their aircraft sustained a mechanical problem during a flight to Saipan Sunday noon.

Commonwealth Ports Authority airport manager Edward Mendiola confirmed receiving an alert notice from the aircraft's pilot Sunday noon, re-

questing emergency assistance at the airport.

Based on the report of aircraft rescue firefighting chief James V. Diaz, his department received the alert notice from the airport's control tower at 3:50pm Sunday, informing them of an emergency situation with the incoming

flight from Guam.

Diaz confirmed that Cape Air flight 9602Y suffered a problem on air and requested emergency assistance as it landed at the Saipan airport.

The ARFF chief immediately activated alert 2 status, which is "standby," and waited for the plane on the ground.

Reports from the ARFF showed that the aircraft landed safely at 3:54pm Sunday with 42 passengers aboard.

Cape Air's pilot gave the alert notice as the aircraft's "fuselage is shaking while on air."

According to one of the passengers who declined to be identified, they were scared during the flight because of the "rattling" they felt inside the

aircraft as the plane was approaching Tinian. It reportedly lasted about 10 minutes.

According to Diaz, it is the responsibility of his department to provide assistance during emergencies. However, aside from a department report, he is not required to open an investigation into the incident. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

CUC

From Page 1

currently above \$112 a barrel amid the turmoil in the Middle East and a weak dollar.

The two rate hike petitions, and other requests, are now being reviewed by the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission. It is expected to decide on both rate hike petitions—and all other recommendations—within the week.

The last time the LEAC rate was adjusted was in January—from \$0.24446 per kilowatt-hour to \$0.28125 per kWh—or about 14.6-percent increase. This covered the period from January to March 2011.

This time, CUC wants the current LEAC charge of \$0.28125 to be increased to \$0.34426 effective April 16. The figure reflects 22-percent hike over the current charge.

During yesterday's lengthy public hearing at the MPLT office on Capital Hill, CUC and its rate consultant, economists.com, said the LEAC increase is solely and completely due to the increase in world oil prices, which CUC has no control over.

The proposed LEAC rate is broken down into fuel and lube oil element, \$0.32691; volatility or allowance for uncertainty of fuel price, \$0.01635; and regulatory and technical support, \$0.00100.

CUC's monthly electric charges are composed of two rates: the base rate, which pays for the day-to-day operations, personnel, and construction of CUC, and the LEAC rate, which pays for the cost of diesel fuel oil needed to generate electricity. LEAC charges comprise 75 to 80 percent of total monthly bills.

Meantime, CUC officials said the base rate increase is necessary to pay for increased operating costs, to fund needed repairs and maintenance, and to



MONETH DEPOSA

Community members and representatives from the business sector listen to testimonies during yesterday's public hearing on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s petition to adjust its base rates and its levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC rate.

pay for stipulated order requirements.

CUC said it needs \$3.8 million to fund all priority projects.

According to CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae yesterday, the last time the base rate was adjusted was in 2006.

Under the proposed base rate hike, residential customers using 500 kWh will pay \$6.62 monthly, from the current base rate of \$5.60. For commercial and government users, their base charge will increase from \$7.67 monthly to \$9.06 a month.

Representatives of economists.com said that world oil and gasoline prices

have increased 59 percent since September 2010—from \$2.13 a gallon to \$3.38 a gallon this April 2011.

If the utilities commission approves both rate hike applications, residential users consuming 500 kWh monthly will bear a combined impact of \$34.03 on their bills—or from the current \$154.23 to \$188.25 a month.

For commercial users of 2,000 kWh, their current monthly bill of \$742.17 will go up to \$901.58—an increase of \$159.41. For commercial users of 4,000 kWh, the \$1,476.67 they currently pay each month will go up to

\$1,794.10—a difference of \$317.43.

CUC consultants admits that CUC's current rates for residential customers are higher than power utilities in Guam, which charges \$0.2100 per kWh; Oahu, which charges \$0.3034 per kWh; and Maui, \$0.3558 per kWh. But they claimed that CUC's rates are still lower than Hawaii, Molokai, La-

safety of the students. He decided, however, against calling the police or PSS central office.

"I will personally inform the commissioner today about the situation," Ada told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that they were thankful that students went home safe.

"Immediately, we contacted the seniors' parents and started asking them if they knew about the [students'] plans. We basically informed them later that their kids are out of the campus and did not attend their classes," Ada said yesterday.

He said this was the first time Kagman High School witnessed an actual "Ditch Day" for its students.

The principal said some school staffers were sent out to search for the seniors and found them hanging out in separate places such as the baseball field on Capital Hill, Bird Island, and Forbidden Island.

Ada admitted being taken by surprise by situation and worried for the

"many of them [felt] guilty of what they did...they're remorseful about it when we talked to them this morning," said Ada.

To avoid the same incident from happening again and prevent exposing the student to risks, Ada will recommend—at least for his school—to hold an official out-of-campus field day for seniors next school year.

"At least we can watch them throughout the celebration and reduce the risk," he said.

In the United States, school officials typically will not issue punishments to those who were truant on Ditch Day, unless the absence will put a student over a predetermined limit for unexcused absences. However, some schools have taken actions to prevent students from ditching on "Ditch Day," including dispatching police officers stationed at high schools to bring "Ditch Day" participants to school.

Besides the no-excuse record, seniors will also be sanctioned by requiring them to do a whole-day campus cleanup as a form of punishment.

All parents of seniors who cut classes were also given notices about their children's behavior.

Ada described the reaction of senior students who were involved in the "tru-

ant act" as very remorseful.

"The commission is very grateful that despite the economic hardship, we are still attracting investors to Rota," Antolin said.

But he said the commission is also mindful of the necessary regulatory process that those investors that come to Rota must meet, including financial suitability, to acquire a gaming industry license.

"The investigation fee is very minimal compared to other regulatory jurisdiction [which charge] a much higher investigation fee," he said.

It is not immediately known how much the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission charges for investigation fees, but other sources said it could

nai, and Kauai.

Other recommendations, proposals

- Besides the base and LEAC rate adjustments, CUC also wants the commission to consider creating a standby service charge, to be applied to large self-generating commercial customers.
- It also asked the commission to suspend the December 2008 contract review protocol for establishing an annual ceiling for internally-funded capital improvement projects.
- CUC changed its mind and now wants the commission to deny the request to change the contract for Telesource, the operator of the Tinian power facilities.
- It also wants advice from the commission on how to go about collecting \$5.8 million in receivables from the government.
- The utilities firm also asked CPUC's approval to procure a new computer system not to exceed \$1 million and transformers not to exceed \$475,000.
- The agency also proposed to approve the establishment of a "life-line" rate class to minimize the impact of rate increases on low-income households.

According to CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren, low-income residents who qualify and use 500 kWh or less will have no change in their base electric rate.

Yesterday's public hearing started at 10am and continued in the afternoon. A handful of community members and representatives from the business sector were among the attendees.

CASINO

From Page 1

day that a second group of investors—SNM Corp., which owns Rota Resort and Country Club—paid the \$150,000 investigation fee.

The four-member commission, chaired by Laura Manglona, has started its investigation, including trips to South Korea and Japan where two of the three individual investors are based. The third member of the investor group is a U.S. citizen.

"The commission is very grateful that despite the economic hardship, we are still attracting investors to Rota," Antolin said.

But he said the commission is also mindful of the necessary regulatory process that those investors that come to Rota must meet, including financial suitability, to acquire a gaming industry license.

"The investigation fee is very minimal compared to other regulatory jurisdiction [which charge] a much higher investigation fee," he said.

reach a lot more than what its Rota counterpart charges.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the second casino investor's payment of the \$150,000 investigation fee shows its serious commitment to invest on Rota.

Manglona and three other Tinian senators are currently in China at the invitation of a casino investor on Tinian, the Bridge Investment Group.

Antolin, moreover, said the investigation process is expected to be finalized by July or August this year.

The investigation seeks to determine the financial suitability of those who own SNM Corp., its corporate officers, stockholders, and any other individuals directly involved with the company.

"Although we investigate the investors, they must also cooperate with the commission to provide the necessary documents and financial requirements during the investigation process," he added.

In a four-year span, the Rota casino industry has made strides. This is much shorter than it took Tinian to have one operational casino, but on a larger scale—the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

On Saipan, voters twice rejected an initiative to legalize casino operation.

Fitial urged anew to appoint special rep to 902 talks

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is being urged once again to appoint a special representative for 902 talks; this time, the call is from the House Committee on Fed-

eral and Foreign Relations that Rep. Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) chairs.

The Fitial administration has repeatedly said that it is looking at other available options to 902 talks, given that the CNMI now has representa-

tion in the U.S. Congress.

Section 902 of the CNMI's Covenant with the U.S. allows for periodic consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments on all matters affecting the relationship between them.

Deleon Guerrero's committee met to discuss House Joint Resolution 17-24, which calls for the governor to appoint a special representative for the 902 talks "to discuss matters affecting the relationship between the United States and the CNMI."

"This is a good time to discuss the relationship between the United States and the CNMI in order to foster better relations on all matters on both sides of the fence," Deleon Guerrero said.

The committee voted unanimously in favor of the joint resolution, which they will recommend for passage.

"One of the central issues to be discussed should the governor take heed of this resolution will be the 200-mile economic zone as well as other issues affecting the social and economic structure of the CNMI. Issues the Washington delegate refuses to touch, perhaps we can get some

notice at this level," Deleon Guerrero said in a statement.

In February, Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) asked Fitial to appoint Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos as his special representative for 902 talks, but the administration said there are other ways to address CNMI-U.S. issues.

This was followed by Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) introduction of a resolution asking Fitial to appoint a special representative for 902 talks to discuss federalization of labor and immigration, the National Marine Monument, the U.S. Interior report on status of foreign workers in the CNMI, and submerged lands.

CDA laments irregular tracking of QC program's requirements

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has yet to receive letters of compliance from the Department of Finance's Division of Revenue and Taxation, required in their qualifying certificate program compliance reports since 2009.

"We're already in 2011. That's how far behind they're at," economic development analyst Carline Sablan told board members during their meeting on April 5.

Sablan said the QC compliance program relies on the division to provide reports that the QC beneficiaries are in good standing before they issue certificates of compliance.

"I don't issue a certificate of compliance until I hear back from all the agencies that they're in good standing and I'm also able to cross check and verify their imports," she said.

Sablan said that out of the 9 QC beneficiaries, CDA only received three letters of compliance from Revenue & Taxation.

According to Sablan, they

have already sent correspondence, including follow up requests, to Revenue & Taxation to provide them with the information.

Aside from the letter of compliance, Sablan said they also request every year a listing of imports of the QC beneficiaries.

She said there is a local purchaser provision in the QC program wherein beneficiaries are mandated to patronize local goods and service providers "whenever possible."

"We use these listings of imports to cross check and verify the information provided on their compliance reports. Without this listing, we have no information to cross check the information we have," added Sablan.

Another request, Sablan said, is the report on the cost side of the QC program, which enables them to determine the amount of benefits already given to the beneficiaries.

Sablan noted that they have not received any of these reports from the Finance Department.

"I want to stress to the board how important it is to

House panel backs passage of initiative extending private land lease to 99 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House Natural Resources Committee will be recommending to the full House of Representatives the passage of a Senate legislative initiative extending private land leases from 55 years to 99 years, but with amendments to the measure's other provisions.

Committee chair Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) met with committee members yesterday to recommend passage of Sen. Luis Crisostomo's (Ind-Saipan) Senate Legislative Initiative 17-4, Senate Draft 1, House Draft 1.

"We would only be recommending the extension to 99 years, but we are not recommending changing the definition of a Northern Marianas descent corporation," he said.

Palacios said the initiative should have only one subject, and not two.

"We expect to have the next session after Easter, and the committee will be ready with its standing committee report for full House passage," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview yesterday.

Crisostomo's HLI 17-4, SD1 amends said extending the private land lease limit from 55

years to 99 years will revitalize major investments in the CNMI, and will also revive the real estate market that will in turn benefit landowners, real estate brokers, and investors.

It also changes the definition of a Northern Marianas descent corporation, from an entity with directors who are 100 percent to only 51 percent persons of Northern Marianas descent. It shall also have voting shares at least 51 percent of which are actually owned by persons of Northern Marianas descent. This is the portion that Palacios' committee is not recommending.

Palacios said his committee will also recommend passage of Rep. Teresita Santos' (Ind-Rota) House Bill 17-172, and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro's (Cov-Saipan) HB 17-170.

Ogumoro's HB 17-170 establishes a Greenway Strategy Steering Committee to develop a plan which, among other things, includes the concept of designing a transportation system management and alternative to cars for a more environment friendly CNMI.

Santos's HB 17-172, meanwhile, seeks to designate one hectare of public land on Rota for the future site of the Rota Veterans Cemetery.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Community and Cultural Affairs

CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 130 children or slots only. Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and no more applications will be provided.

Pre eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

Location	Date	Time
• NMC Campus <i>This is only for those attending NMC or going to school</i>	Thursday, April 14, 2011	1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.
• Garapan Street Market	Thursday, April 21, 2011	6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Parents and/or Legal Guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following.

- Three (3) latest check stubs showing the applicant's name, hours worked (at least 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings (both parents);
- Most recent 1040 tax – for the year 2010 (both parents);
- School documents (class schedule, must be full time 12 credit);
- Training schedule (must have at least 60 training hours bi-weekly).

Any interested individual who does not bring the above mentioned documents will not be entertained for pre-eligibility.

The Child Care Program Office will accept completed applications beginning May 16, 2011 and the last day to submit applications will be May 27, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call 664-2575/2546/2587.

Requirements:

Applicant of Household

1. Check stubs for the most recent three pay periods for each parent or guardian;
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian (Passport, CNMI driver's license, Mayor's ID Card or entry permit);
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2010 (each parent or guardian);
4. Residency: The applicant or guardian must be living in the CNMI
Provide one of the following documents:
 - a. House Rental/Mortgage
 - b. Utility Receipt
 - c. Telephone Receipt
 - d. Entry Permit
5. Employment verification;
6. Child support statement/stub;
7. Training/Education Verification and class schedules;
8. If single parent/guardian in a household provide notarized affidavit.

Child/ Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA));
2. A copy of US Passport;
3. A copy of Social Security Card.

Approved for distribution:

/s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao
DCCA Secretary

Date: 03/21/2011

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

Landowner, firm sue real estate broker for malpractice

A corporation and a landowner are suing a real estate broker and his company for allegedly engaging in real estate broker malpractice involving land transactions.

Salty Saipan Corp. and Donicia Mettao Lifoifoi have filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court against Mustafa Shakir, Shakir CNMI Inc., and SAMA Holdings LLC, accusing them of real estate broker malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, and breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

Saipan Tribune tried but

failed to contact Shakir.

Salty Saipan Corp. and Lifoifoi, through counsels Robert T. Torres and Colin M. Thompson, asked the Superior Court to declare that the defendants are not entitled to any commission or compensation as a result of their breaches of professional responsibility.

They also asked the court to order the defendants to turn over all commissions and compensations they received with the sale and lease of the property. The plaintiffs also demanded payment for attorneys' fees and court costs.

According to the complaint, Lifoifoi, the owner of two adjoining properties in Gualo Rai, was in default on an existing mortgage on the property and needed funds to avoid foreclosure and other penalties.

On Sept. 15, 2007, the principals of Salty Saipan met Lifoifoi to discuss the purchase of the property. Lifoifoi offered to sell the property to Salty Saipan for \$300,000 and on Oct. 13, 2007, Lifoifoi executed an agreement with Shakir.

The agreement appointed Shakir as Lifoifoi's exclusive agent to assist her with the sale

or lease of her property "for the amount due to the mortgage loan unencumbered."

Shakir executed the exclusive brokerage agreement for Shakir's CNMI Inc.

The complaint stated that without telling Lifoifoi, and after he had agreed to act as her broker, Shakir entered into an oral agreement to act as a broker for Salty Saipan to acquire the property.

Even though he already knew who owned the property and the price that Lifoifoi was asking for its sale, Shakir allegedly told the principals of Salty Saipan

that "they were his sisters," that he would confirm for them who owned the property, and that he would find out the price that the owner was asking for the lots.

Shakir stated that the property was mortgaged to City Trust, that Salty Saipan could assume the loan, and that he could control the interest on the loan.

Based on Shakir's representations that there would be no problem with the assumption of the City Trust loan, Salty Saipan agreed to purchase the lot with the commercial structure for \$300,000.

Based on her understanding that she would be transferring both lots to Salty Saipan for a combined price of \$300,000, Lifoifoi agreed to the transaction.

On Oct. 2, 2007, and with Shakir acting as her broker, Lifoifoi then entered into lease agreement with Salty Saipan for the second parcel of real property, along with improvements and a building.

The price of the lease for the single parcel was \$300,000. The lease agreement provided for an initial payment of \$40,000 along with the assumption of the outstanding mortgage.

Shakir allegedly did not disclose to Salty Saipan that he was acting as a broker for Lifoifoi.

Shakir did not disclose to Salty Saipan that he had taken over the property by lease assignment from Lifoifoi, for which he allegedly paid her \$16,099.21 in a series of eight installments.

Shakir allegedly failed to disclose that there were problems with the exit and entry to the property.

Only after Salty Saipan had started renovating the property did Shakir inform the company that it could not assume the City Trust loan.

Shakir told Salty Saipan that

Court gives ex-UMDA official more time to amend complaint

» UMDA, Saito agree to deadline extension for possible resolution

The federal court yesterday extended the deadline for a former chief financial officer of the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. to file an amended complaint against UMDA.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood gave Hiroyuki Saito an additional 30 days to file the amended complaint after Saito and UMDA agreed to the extension.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered that Saito may file on or before May 16, 2011.

Saito and UMDA, through their respective counsels Mark A. Scoggins and Robert T. Torres, agreed to the additional 30 days so that they may continue to discuss possible resolution of their dispute.

In February 2011, U.S. Dis-

trict Court for the NMI designated judge Marilyn L. Huff issued a written decision that granted UMDA's motion to dismiss Saito's lawsuit.

Huff ruled that Saito does not adequately allege a breach of contract in his lawsuit because he does not adequately allege the existence of any contract to be breached.

The judge, however, gave Saito 30 days to amend his complaint.

Saito, a Japanese national, alleged that his termination in December 2009 was without cause. He asked the court to order UMDA to arbitrate their dispute in accordance with the terms of their contract. He demanded damages, attorney's fees, and court costs. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)



Young students of Uncle Ben's Studio and Educational Services show off their individual trophies during the awarding ceremony held on April 3.

Uncle Ben's students cap year of notable performances

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the first time under its new name, Uncle Ben's Studio and Educational Services handed awards to its students for remarkable performances this year.

The awarding ceremony was held April 3 at their dance studio along Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road in Dandan.

Award presenters included studio owner Vicente "Uncle Ben" S. Borja, operations manager Charry de Guzman, and instructor/manager George Gomez.

Appreciation awards were also given to Borja for his continuous support and belief in these talented students; and to instructors Joseph Quistadio and Nenita Tobilla for looking after the students' safety during classes.

Students who have been a member for at least two years received Loyalty Awards. They are Angela Barbo, Lesly Ibarra, Mikaela Cunanan, Donna Galvez, Angelo Talens, John Jacob Canape, John Guiller Canape, and Ezekiel Canape.

The new members, on the other hand, received Certificates of Membership. They are Mikaela

Vergara, Alou Buensalido, John Isaac San Nicolas, Simon Flores, Princess Cassey Melchor, Desiree Maratas, Krizaldine Salde, Angel Nica Voces, and Shawn Ray Gaviola.

Recipients of the Special Awards are Donna Galvez, Ballroom Dancer of the Year 2011 (female); Angelo Talens, Ballroom Dancer of the Year (male); John Jacob Canape, Best Hiphop Dancer (male); Aira Sophia Abreu, Best Hiphop Dancer (female); Clarisse Torio, Best Island Dancer; Mikaela Cunanan, Viewers Choice Award (Public Choice);

John Guillers Canape, Viewers Choice Award; Ezekiel Canape, Most Improved Kid; Carlo Nautan, Breakdancer of the Year; Lesly Ibarra, Teachers Choice Award; Ramhae Awit, Most Behave Student; and Angela Barbo, Most Versatile and Star Quality.

For the music category, the awardees were Luther Lizama, Best Band Vocalist and Guitarist 2011; Angelo Talens, Best Back-up Vocalist and Drummer of the Year; Sean Japor, Best Ukulele Player of the Year; Aira Sophia Abreu, Best Pop Singer; Angela Barbo, Best Hiphop Singer; and Mikaela Cunanan, Best Rock Singer.

In a phone interview, de Guzman said she has seen the students' talents flourish through the years. "We're building them like a star, to have that star quality," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "I see their efforts and they're really great."

Aside from singing and dancing, De Guzman said the students are also trained in other aspects such as modeling, acting, and personality improvement.

Some of their former students, she said, were able to use their training at Uncle Ben's and got regular jobs as performers.



Awardees in the music category show off their trophies after the awarding ceremony held on April 3.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Zoning OKs 4 applications, including rezoning of Susupe lot for warehouse

BY CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Zoning Board unanimously approved two conditional use permit and two rezoning applications during a well-attended public hearing and meeting on April 7 at the Zoning Conference Room in Joeten Dandan.

The first to be approved was the request of businessman Christopher A. Torres to rezone a lot in Susupe from village residential to village commercial. Torres' request is in line with his plan to build a warehouse and wholesale operation at the

intersection of Bakke Street and Tokcha Avenue for his business, Western Sales Trading Co.

Torres was represented by project architect Roman Cabrera, who did a presentation on the project, and WSTCO resident manager Arnaldo Guban.

"Susupe is the central area of the island," explained Guban. "It's more convenient to have our warehouse in Susupe and deliver to our customers, for example, in Koblerville. We want to serve our customers better."

According to Guban, their current warehouse is in Lower Base.

"They want to relocate to

improve their facility. We will provide landscape and aesthetic fence... It's really an economic basis," said Cabrera, adding that Torres is a good businessman who pays taxes to the CNMI government.

Among the community members who attended the meeting to support the application were Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind.-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), businessmen Ben Fejoran and Joe Ayuyu, and Matsunaga family members who were the original owners of the property.

The application became a contentious one as some 149 in-

dividuals have signed a petition against it, but not one showed up at the meeting.

Torcuato Castro, who expressed his opposition to the application in a letter to the editor, attended the hearing and urged the board to come up with a master plan that will be followed by all businesses.

Board chair Diego Blanco noted that the rezoning of the Susupe property is "not the final phase" of the application as Torres still needs to come back to the Zoning Office to apply for a conditional use permit.

Other approved applications

The Zoning Board also approved the application of Johnny Fong of the University of Loyola Press to operate a printing press on the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

The board, however, said the approval of the application is based on conditions, including the use of safety measures to store printing chemicals and prevent spills or chemical odor from public exposure; proper disposal of waste chemicals or products; and keeping the noise from printing machines to a reasonable level.

P&A Corp. was also allowed to use the former Winners Garment Factory at the intersection of Aetna Road and Buninas Loop for warehouse and whole-

Navy Hill was rezoned from village residential to village commercial.

The request was made by Jose Lifoifoi of Quad L's Co. for the construction of an apartment building at the intersection of Saluda St. and Publiko Drive.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 21, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2010-015

"REHABILITATION OF THE DAN DAN HOMESTEAD CHILDREN'S PARK"

Proposal packets will be available on April 12, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 1:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at the proposed project site in Dandan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 25, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2011-006

"REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX TELESCOPIC BLEACHERS & FLOORING"

Proposal packets will be available on April 12, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 18, 2011, at the proposed project site in Dandan, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

BAT POACHING CASE

US govt: No law requires shipping of evidence to a foreign country

The U.S. Attorney's Office has opposed an alleged fruit bat poacher's request to compel the U.S. government to send the collected shotgun shells to his Canada-based tool and firearms identification consultant for inspection and analysis.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk W. Schuler said there is no rule, law, or case known to him that requires the U.S. government to ship "irreplaceable, critical, and tangible evidence" to a suspect's consultant in a foreign country.

Schuler said the U.S. District Court for the NMI should instead require the expert of defendants Albert Taitano, David Santos, and Adrian Mendiola to inspect the evidence at the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in Oregon.

Schuler pointed out that an order compelling the U.S. government to ship evidence to a foreign country for unsupervised inspection by unknown recipients sets a dangerous precedent.

"How can the government be certain this evidence will not be lost by or tampered with by the consultant or any of the recipients, who are all out of this Court's jurisdiction?" he asked.

Taitano, through counsel

Bruce Berline, had asked the federal court to order the U.S. government to send the shotgun shell evidence via Federal Express to his consultant with a prepaid return voucher.

Berline assured that there is very little risk the evidence may be lost given the tracking and expertise of Federal Express.

As the consultant is a Canadian citizen, Berline said the consultant may have problems going to Oregon and "working" with their lab without a visa to do so.

The defense lawyer said the consultant will conduct his independent testing of the evidence and return it to the laboratory within a week.

Schuler said their own expert has already concluded that several shotgun shells were discharged by two known shotguns associated with suspects. He said the reports documenting these conclusions were given to the suspects in September 2010.

The suspects are challenging the U.S. government's firearms identifications with two arguments: 1) that firearms identifications are unreliable and inadmissible, and 2) that, even if admissible, the government expert made the wrong

identifications.

Schuler argued, however, that the suspects are asking the court to exclude the evidence because it is unreliable, but at the same time demanding that it be sent to a foreign expert who will presumably conduct the same examinations they claim are unreliable and inadmissible.

"The defense is asking to have its cake and eat it too, all at the taxpayers' expense," Schuler said.

The prosecutor said the defendants should not be deprived of their own expert to challenge the U.S. government's expert, but there must be reasonable limits to their request.

The defendants are charged with taking threatened species (Mariana fruit bats) in violation of the Endangered Species Act. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room, 1st Floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. Executive Session²
- IV. Unfinished Business
- V. New Business
 - a. Determination of amount to be disbursed for Scholarship Award.
- VI. Miscellaneous Matters
- VII. Discussion of Agenda for Next Board meeting
- VIII. Adjournment

¹ We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMCS 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Saipan cockpit board puts off meeting twice

The initial meeting of the Saipan Cockpit Board has already been postponed twice due to incomplete attendance of its members.

The board meeting was originally set on April 7 but was moved to April 11.

Yesterday's meeting, however, was once again called off as only three of the five members were able to make it.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, who appointed all board members, said the meeting is postponed "until further notice."

Flores said one member is with

an inspection job for his work.

"Until we have a complete board, we will not be able to hold a meeting because they have to work on the rules and regulations for the cockfighting industry on island," Flores told *Saipan Tribune*.

According to Flores, his presence is not required during the meeting. However, once the board comes up with the rules and regulations, their legal counsel needs to be there to evaluate the output before it is finalized. (*Clarissa V. David*)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW11-IFB-008

Renovation Of Government House #1354 – LIDS & Enforcement Office, CNMI Department of Labor

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works 9DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the Renovation of Government House # 1353 LIDS Enforcement Office, Capitol Hill, Mednilla Avenue, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after April 12, 2011 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. *Preference is available to US Citizens as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, and must be submitted with the BID of preference is claimed.*

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on April 28, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. local time at the Project Site, Gov't Bldg. #1354-Mednilla Avenue. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on May 2, 2011 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Acting Director, Technical Services Division, DPW Bldg. #1353 Mednilla Avenue, or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked "DPW11-IFB-008". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 05, 2011. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time May 05, 2011, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 05, 2011, and must be received no later than May 12, 2011. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, May 16, 2011. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on May 09, 2011.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid account must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the Contract price for contracts greater than \$25, 000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the element of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/S/MARTIN C. SABLON
Secretary of Public Works

/S/HERMAN S. SABLON
Director of Procurement and Supply

Woman allegedly punches, bites man

A woman was arrested for allegedly punching and biting a man at his apartment in Chalan Kanoa District 2 Thursday morning.

Leonore Langu, 26, was arrested for assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos ordered the release of Langu on a bail of \$50 cash and \$2,000 unsecured bond.

Detective Catherine P. Pangelinan stated in her report that a patrol officer responded to Sablan Apartment in Chalan Kanoa District 2 on Thursday at 7am after the Department of Public Safety received a disturbance call.

Pangelinan said that when the officer arrived at the apartment,

he saw Langu and the man fighting on the street.

The officer witnessed the man pushing Langu's face and Langu throwing a slipper at his face, yelling about child support. The officer also saw a nearby child crying.

The report did not mention Langu's relation to the alleged victim.

The alleged victim told police that earlier that day he was sleeping when he heard someone knocking on his door.

When he opened the door, Langu pulled his shirt and pushed him into the house.

Langu allegedly punched him and tried to reach for a knife, but he was able to push her away.

Langu, however, bit his arm. He pushed her out of the house and locked the door. Langu

took a big rock and threw it at the door.

When he came out, Langu allegedly started hitting him with a plastic chair. As he

was walking on his way to the store to call the police, Langu followed and continued to hit him, then a patrol officer came. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FOA membership meeting today

The Friends of the Arts will be holding a membership meeting today, April 12, at the Thai House restaurant in Garapan. A delicious Thai buffet will open the program at 6:30pm with entertainment starting at 7pm, or shortly thereafter, followed by a brief rundown of FOA business. Entertainment will consist of demonstrations of musical and dramatic talent provided by FOA members and student Thespians (and also other performances as it all comes together).

The cost will be \$15 for adult members or guests (age 12 and above), \$10 for children (age 4-12) and no charge for children younger than 4 years. Non-members are welcome to come and join us to become acquainted with the FOA. Please call Frank Gibson at 322-3204 (home/answering machine) or 287-7476 (cell) to make reservations and keep Tuesday evening, April 12, free on your calendar. (*PR*)

Early dismissal at Kagman High

Kagman High School will have its report card distribution for the 3rd Quarter on Thursday, April 14, 2011, from 4:30pm to 6pm. Classes will be half day. Students will be released at 12pm. Parents and guardians may pick up report cards from their child's 3rd period teacher. For more information call 237-3840 or email kagmanhs@gmail.com. (*PR*)

SHEFA board meeting today

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board will have its regular board meeting today, April 12, 2011, at 10am, in the Mayor of Saipan conference room, ground floor in the Afetnas Square, Afetna, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. (*PR*)

John Gonzales LIVE to feature maritime archaeology

John Gonzales LIVE this Wednesday, April 13, 2011, will feature "Recent Discoveries in Saipan's Waters: Shipwreck, Planes and Vehicles." Featured guests are Dr. Jennifer Mckinnon, lecturer in Maritime Archaeology at Flinders University; Jason Raupp, research associate at Flinders University; and Sarah Nahabedian, masters student at Flinders University.

John Gonzales LIVE airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Sunday, April 17, and Monday, April 18, all from 7pm to 8pm on KSPN Channel 2.

John Gonzales LIVE also rebroadcasts on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on April 13, 2011 at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, April 14, at 11am Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzales@pticom.com). (*PR*)

UOG English Placement Test April 23

The University of Guam English Placement Test will be held at 8am on April 23 in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Lecture Hall. Students must bring their admissions application receipt and a photo identification to the test. Students should plan to arrive 20 minutes early. New students who plan to enroll at UOG for the summer or fall semesters must take the placement test. (*PR*)

Updated UoG library webpage

In honor of National Library Week (April 10-16, 2011), the University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library has launched a newly revised and updated webpage dedicated to the Government Documents Collection. Featured are resources focused on the U.S. Government; U.S. Government Statistics; Guam & the Pacific Region; the White House, Congress, and Judiciary. Visit the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library Homepage www.uog.edu/library and then click on Government Documents. (*PR*)

Activities at Kagman Elementary School

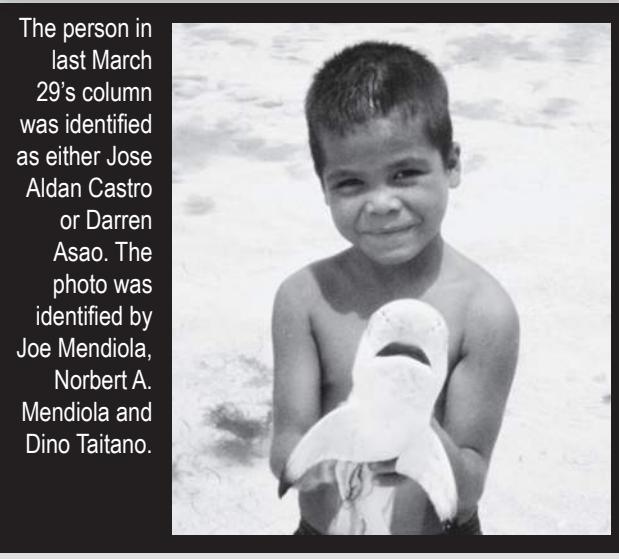
- April 13, 2011: PTSA meeting on Wednesday, from 6pm to 6:30pm, followed by Parent Literacy Night sponsored by the Science & Social Studies learning community team from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. The PTSA & Parent Literacy night will be held in the school cafeteria.
- April 15: Early dismissal for students from Kinder to Grade 5 at 12pm. Bus riders will be dropped home after 12pm. Students who are car riders must be picked up at 12pm as well.
- April 15, 2011 is the 3rd Quarter report cards distribution for all parents and guardians from 1:30pm to 4:30p, in your children's respective classrooms. Parents and guardians are highly encouraged to pick up your child's 3rd Quarter report cards. (*PR*)



THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Saipan Tribune, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.



If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.



The person in last March 29's column was identified as either Jose Aldan Castro or Darren Asao. The photo was identified by Joe Mendiola, Norbert A. Mendiola and Dino Taitano.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 12, 1999

MVA to support CPA on campaign

Marianas Visitors Authority board chairman Dave M. Sablan has pledged to assist the Commonwealth Ports Authority in enticing cruise vessels to bring in tourists to the CNMI. Sablan said he will meet with various travel wholesalers in Japan to sell the Northern Marianas as a destination for Japanese travelers who prefer to go on a cruise. Since Japan is encouraging school children to travel abroad, Sablan said tapping this huge market would greatly help the ailing tourism economy. CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas said he has begun discussing with Japanese cruise vessels the possibility of calling on the port of Saipan.

Refurbished Saipan harbor inaugurated

It was a simple ceremony attended by the CNMI and US Navy officials. After several years of waiting, the \$43 million Saipan Harbor Improvement Project was finally inaugurated. Carlos H. Salas, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority recalled how a group of businessmen began the vision of having a modern port facility, about 20 years ago. Now, the Port of Saipan is a world class facility with 2,600 linear feet of berthing space, a 22-acre container yards, a deeper channel, a wider turning basin and an efficient fuel, water and sewer systems.

April 12, 2000

House to revive discussion on school voucher

The House of Representatives is likely to revive discussion on the school voucher or choice program after the initial proposal more than four years ago drew strong opposition from the Board of Education. Rep. Brigida Ichihara, chair of the Education Committee, said yesterday she will meet with educators and representatives of the community to feel the public pulse on instituting the program as part of school reforms in the CNMI. On a visit to Washington D.C., the lawmaker, along with the rest of the nine House members, met yesterday with think-tankers from the Institute for Justice on education reforms.

SGMA beseeches public to practice safe driving

A number of recent traffic accidents involving pedestrians has the Saipan Garment Manufacturer's Association pleading with the public to drive safely—and "friendly"—on Saipan's busy, and usually fast, roadways. Two garment workers were struck by automobiles last week in Garapan, and two more were hit last weekend along Middle Road. One of the weekend victims is in a coma at the Commonwealth Health Center. "This is a serious and tragic situation," said SGMA executive director Richard Pierce. "It's difficult, and very sad, to contact the parents of these injured people and tell them their son or daughter was in an accident, an accident that could have been prevented."

April 12, 2001

CUC: Works on 25 OPA reports ongoing

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is yet to submit sets of regulating guidelines for the accurate operation of the public firm as auditing of questionable dealings continue. To date, at least 25 cases remain open including unliquidated advances of CUC employees and implementing guidelines for the regulation of official representation. Based on the Office of Public Auditor's Report on Agencies' Implementation of Audit Recommendations, the utility corporation is yet to provide the OPA a copy of regulations on proper monitoring of advances and business entertainment expenses. On OPA's Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control and on Compliance Over Financial Reporting Based Upon the Audit Performed in Accordance with Government Auditing Standards, at least 24 cases remain delinquent with recommendations yet to be submitted.

Tenno turns down changes to power sufficiency law

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday advised the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to comply with the provisions of the Energy Sufficiency Act of 2000 by passing on the contract for Saipan's 60-megawatt power plant to the next lowest and responsible bidder. Mr. Tenorio apparently balks initial plans made by some CUC officials to solicit new sets of bids for the multi-million-dollar project, which has been in the offing for several years now. The governor pointed out that Public Law 12-1 contains blander provisions that encompass the entire project, including total cost, procurement and awarding of the contract which was not limited to Enron. PL 12-1 calls for the immediate construction of the most efficient infrastructure base, particularly source of power supply, to support the economic development of the Northern Marianas.

WASC team, NMC community to meet in a forum

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Members of the visiting accreditation team and students and employees of the Northern Marianas College will meet in a forum tomorrow to share and discuss how the college is doing in order to retain its accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Saipan Tribune learned that

the forum will take place in the afternoon at the campus and will be exclusive to NMC students and employees. All students and employees were strongly encouraged by the college's management to attend and be heard at the occasion.

The forum occurs on the first day of the team's visit. They will be on island from April 13 to 14.

Saipan Tribune learned that the team will be chaired by Dr.

Steven Kinsella, superintendent and president of Gavilan College. Other members are Susan Murata, head librarian of Kapi'olani Community College; William McGinnis, a trustee on the Butte-Glenn Community College District board of trustees; and Dr. Worku Negash, vice president for administrative services at Mission College.

The group's visit aims to validate the contents of the

show-cause report the Northern Marianas College submitted to the commission on March 15. The team is also slated to meet with selected members of the Board of Regents, including its chairman, former judge Juan Lizama. WASC is expected to render a decision on NMC's accreditation after its June 2011 assembly.

The college was placed on continued show-cause status

in January this year after failing to address the team's prior recommendations. The commission earlier disclosed that, although NMC has done some work to address compliance issues, none of them have yet been completely and sustainably resolved.

The continued show-cause status was imposed because NMC was found still non-compliant with eligibility require-

ments or accreditation standards in three key areas: institutional autonomy from outside interference, institutional governance, and accountability.

Its continued lack of a president and the high turnover of presidents have also contributed to the show-cause sanction. The college has yet to hire a new president since the termination of Dr. Carmen Fernandez a year ago.



Attendees of the recent meeting at PSS BOE: from left to right: Dr. Satoru Izutsu of UH Manoa; Dr. George Hui of UH Manoa; Dr. De Torres of NMC, Kae Pusic, STEP-UP Coordinator; Vina Saures, PSS STEP-UP director; Lynette Villagomez, PSS; Craig Garison, MHS principal; Sharlene Manglona, RHS principal; Dr. Agodoa, NIH; Barbara Merfalen, NMC; Florita Cabanes, NMC Science instructor; Lyte Chapap, NMC Math instructor; Dr. Marisol Quintanilla, and Michael Ogo, CREES.

NMC, PSS, NIH-NIDDK tie up to bring STEP-UP to the CNMI

The Northern Marianas College, CNMI Public School System, and the National Institutes of Health-National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases have teamed up for the first time to bring the Short Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons, or STEP-UP, to the CNMI.

STEP-UP, a national summer long program, selects seniors or those who have successfully

completed their junior year, from various high schools in the U.S. and Pacific Region to conduct scientific research projects in universities or community college laboratories in their areas.

After a year of collaborative meetings between NIH -NIDDK, University of Hawaii, the PSS, and NMC, the project will finally be happening this summer.

"We are very excited about

this collaboration with PSS, NIH-NIDDK and the UH Medical School. We look forward to providing this extraordinary opportunity to the students of the CNMI and a continuation of the STEP-UP program for our area," said Barbara K. Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services at NMC.

NMC will be providing the space, the equipment, and the mentors to aid the students in

the preparation of their scientific research projects from June to August. The students will be conducting their research on Saipan, Tinian, or Rota at NMC facilities, in collaboration with Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service.

This year there are seven students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Rota High School, and Tinian High School.

At the end of the internship in August, some of the participants will get the opportunity to represent the Pacific Island region at the Annual High School Scientific Session and Research Presentations in Washington, D.C.

"Now the students of the CNMI have a chance to participate in STEP-UP and receive exposure to scientific research and possibly pursue it as a career," said Vina Saures, PSS

STEP-UP program director.

The UH Medical School in collaboration with NIH-NIDDK through the Pacific Island High School Summer Research Program sponsors STEP-UP for the Pacific region. The NIH directly funds STEP-UP.

For more information on STEP-UP, contact Vina Saures at 237-3066 or email her at vina-saures@cnmipss.org. (NMC)

Reading mentorship at WSR

Saipan Southern High School Book Club members and Library Studies students visited all the 6th grade classes of the William S Reyes Elementary School on April 7, 2011, in celebration of the School Library Month.

Phyllis Ain, WSR's Reading Resource teacher and Sudi Napalan, SSHS teacher librarian, are collaborating in a literacy project that encourages students to read for pleasure. Over 100 paperback books are loaned by SSHS library to the 6th grade classes for this project.

SSHS students creatively in-

troduced the featured literature using different strategies such as reading aloud, book talks, skits and lively discussions. Yuri Song, a junior SSHS student, shares, "It was relieving to see the younger kids interested in reading *Beastly*. I believe that today really provided a great opportunity to promote reading."

Napalan adds, "It is important to provide interesting and current reading materials to entice students to read, especially the reluctant readers. It is important for our Book Club and SSHS students to mentor the younger students. It benefits both sides. SSHS students

want to make an impact in the community and this is one of their ways."

In February, SSHS Library initiated a movie tie-in literacy project for the book *Beastly* by Alex Flinn. More than 300 SSHS students read the book and students continue to rave about the book to their peers. (PR)

Saipan Southern High School Book Club members and Library Studies students visit the 6th grade classes of William S. Reyes Elementary School on April 7, 2011, in celebration of the School Library Month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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The future of Marpi

By TINA SABLAM

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Tina Sablan is a former lawmaker and is a member of Friends of Marpi, a recently formed group to oppose the installation of power poles in Marpi.

The more we learn about the power pole project currently underway in Marpi, the more we are convinced that it is about so much more than just electrifying a few lights and water pumps for the public cemetery.

Local electricians and renewable energy experts have generally agreed that dropping hundreds of thousands of dollars to erect 43 power poles from the cemetery to the main road and on to the Buddhist shrine is overkill, to say the least, for lights and water pumps. For the amount of money being spent on these power poles (and, in the near future, on power bills) the government could easily have installed a state-of-the-art renewable energy system, with cost-effective security infrastructure to protect that system against vandalism.

The continued push for power poles in Marpi makes no sense, and so we ask more questions.

A much bigger picture of the future of Marpi is now beginning to emerge, based on information obtained, bit by bit, from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Department of Public Works, landowners in Marpi, the Zoning Office, the Department of Public Lands, the Attorney General's Office, the Capital Improvement Projects Office, and the Governor's Office. It is a future that is being determined by a relatively small group of people, without so much as a public hearing to clue the rest of us in, or ask us what we think.

It is a future that could include power, water, and wastewater lines extending all the way down to the landfill and up toward Suicide Cliff, opening that entire region of Marpi for intensive development. Plans reportedly have been or are being developed to level the trees, install streetlights, build new hotels and condominiums (and casinos too, if certain people have their wish), construct more public restrooms, open up homestead subdivisions, erect huge solar and wind farms, widen the road and connect it to the back island road, "develop" Kalabera—the list goes on and on. These plans are not being openly discussed, and information is not readily available.

It is a future that is not that far away from us, if we do nothing about the changes that are happening now.

The power poles are really just the tip of the iceberg.

For many reasons, Marpi is an exceptional place. It is a National Historic Landmark, one of the few places in the entire country deemed worthy of this distinction because of its significant historic value. The area is rich in important artifacts dating back to ancient Chamorro times. It is a sacred memorial site for those who lost their lives in World War II and a burial ground for our military veterans, and it will soon be a final resting place for many of our loved ones who pass away. It is home to some of the last stands of old limestone forest remaining in the CNMI, one of the best diving grottos in the world, fascinating caves containing ancient petroglyphs, and the beautiful Bird Island. It is habitat for wildlife found nowhere else on Earth. It is one of the last places on the island, and in the world, where we can still see millions of stars at night, unhampered by light pollution. It is a favorite place for walking, jogging, cave exploring, bicycling, swimming, diving, hiking, and peaceful sanctuary for many residents. It is our most popular tourist attraction on island.

There is so much that is special about Marpi that is so easily destroyed if we are not careful.

It is perhaps difficult for some of us to oppose a Marpi landowner

See MARPI on Next Page



Autism's Danny Boy

World Autism Day was the 2nd and the CNMI has April as an Autism Awareness month. Friday was my son's 16th birthday. He and his older going-19 sister were diagnosed with ASD a decade some ago that set a marriage into a heart-wrenching state of divorce and a dislocation 12 time-zones apart.

They are simply units in statistical surveys and charts, these children diagnosed with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder); attention to public services for their welfare subject to allocation of funds in government budgets pending, of course, availability. CNMI formed an Autism Commission to look into the extent of occurrence in the Commonwealth and recommend interventions. Without budgetary tooth, the Commission does its work on the tardy side!

The children (and parents) are not noticeable until you meet them and learn of their names, common ones, like Nicolas and Larissa (and Jet Li). Mine are Andrea and Daniel, two beaming tots who could not wait to hack on Papa's laptop like any ordinary 2-year-old until one day, the world seems to come to a complete stop. They suddenly looked lost, wandering into a world of their own, failing to show any response from social stimulus, and displaying repetitive behaviors. Words from their lips became scarce. One noticed absence of eye contact and body language. They now just objectively call me, "Father." I do not know what movie star Jet Li's child calls him in Chinese!

We checked with the pediatrician who did not hesitate to suggest that our child was either just lagging behind the norm or has delayed development, and we would be better off being patient since the phase will pass, and while we're at it, if we could hand the spouse a couple of aspirin, it would help domestic tranquility. S/he made sure that we kept the vaccine shots current.

Some parents went home from the doctor's visits unsatisfied. The Internet was a handy assistant to venture into fields heretofore limited to the healing professions. That's when one discovers that our children are not alone. From 1 out of 1,000 in '95, to 1 out of 400 in 2002, and now, 1 out of 95, the disorder has reached epidemic proportions.

Immediately, grief turns to anger in search of a culprit. Partners look at and to each other and divorce lawyers' fees suddenly looked cheap. From refrigerator Mamas to Papa's genes, food intake to chemical preservatives, environmental hygiene to pesticides, there was no shortage of named culprits, with marketed remedies to go along. Doctors moved, one suggested to look closer at thimerosal, a mercury preservative in vaccines, which when administered in multiple dosage, exposed a child 40 times the normal tolerance level. He's been in the doghouse since. (Courtney Zietzke, an MHS teacher, wrote on thimerosal in *The Winged Messenger*.) Google the controversy, it remains a live one.

Behavioral psychologists got busy, audio/visual techies found lots of work, speech pathologists were in demand, and special edu-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



cation got political on the front lines.

PACA on Saipan was a parent association of children with autism; like its typhoon namesake, was out to speak truth to power, get the public's recognition of the malady being endemic, securing the governor's declaration of April as autism month. Frank and Vivian brought the snacks for the meetings and UMC's Oleai MRC hosted the families, getting a fence around the yard so the children could play while parents met.

The group evolved into STaRPO to include Rota and Tinian, and cerebral palsy as well as Down syndrome, MOU'd PSS' SpEd for the renovation and use of the old Head Start classroom in CK for use in parent and teachers' training, research and development. Anne, the SpEd coordinator and partner, got severely ill, and after eight incidents of break-ins and vandalism on the facility, the group hibernated.

Other parents gathered by John and Marissa, and admin'd by Larissa, formed the current Autism Society-CNMI, which found a home at the NMPASI offices in Gualo Rai.

We held an open house a couple of years back, turning the NMPASI training room into an autism drop-in center, "where everybody knows your name." Heretofore, the practice was to guard the privacy of children being in SpEd associated with a disability. This time, parents put their family pictures up on the wall and started calling children not as "disabled" but simply "differently-abled." We would not have it otherwise. Children are gifts to be nurtured, nourished and treasured, not to be cast into the shadows of silence and shame. They are not problems to be solved; they are lives in the full array, like everyone else, of creation's mystery, awe and wonder! One child put up his visual solar system, Nicolas displayed impressive artwork, and Larissa sang like a siren's lulling sigh. My Daniel by then had ridden a horse like a pro the fist time he alighted, and Andrea painted like a Picasso before she was four.

The last time I checked, Daniel and Andrea still beam from the wall, along with the host of ASD children. Stop by the place sometime. Bobbi and Vince were last guards of the premises, and should you run into two James at NMPASI, you are not seeing four. They're Micronesians XXLs! Tom, also of NMPASI, coordinates the Autism Awareness month's activities. Give him a call.

Oh, excuse me. My Scot tenor just belted the first bars of *Danny Boy*.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wakeup call for IRs and ‘common laws’: Time is running out

By now, everybody knows—or should know—that Nov. 27, 2011, is the last day of the two-year grace period mandated by the CNRA—P.L. 110-229, the “federalization” statute. Unless existing laws and regulations change, beginning Nov. 28, USCIS and ICE (Immigration & Customs Enforcement) will no longer honor entry permits and umbrella permits issued by the CNMI government. Everyone who on that date does not have some immigration status issued or at least approved by the U.S. government will be “out of status,” an “overstayer,” or some other term that means “unlawfully present in the U.S., and subject to removal (deportation).” And if you don’t think that ICE will take action in November, look around now: the CNMI government is forwarding to ICE the names of everyone the CNMI considers unlawfully present, and ICE is actively bringing investigations and filing removal cases.

So you would think that everyone who wants to stay in the CNMI and is eligible for a U.S. immigration status would be scrambling to apply, particularly those who are immediate relatives of U.S. citizens (USCs) or immediate relatives of lawful permanent residents (LPRs or “green card” holders). Instead, this is what we hear: “My wife’s an IR, so I don’t have to worry, right?” “We’re common law, so I’m an IR, right?” “My kids are IRs, so I don’t have to apply for them, right?” “I’m a U.S. citizen, so my wife can stay, right?”

Wrong, wrong, wrong, and wrong again. This is not a rumor specific to any one group living in the CNMI. It is a deeply-rooted false belief, common to a great many people we meet, from every ethnic and national-origin group living here. We think it is based on a failure to recognize that when immigration changed from CNMI to U.S. law, it changed in some very fundamental ways. It’s time to wake up.

There are some kinds of IRs, discussed below, who will have parole in place after Nov. 28, or may be able to apply for parole in place during a brief period while waiting to be eligible to apply for green cards, but these are very limited groups. For the most part, those people who have the ability to change their status but do not do so are likely to find that, come November, they have to leave the CNMI. That may not be so important to those who are young, single, and without any great attachment to this place. But it is critical for those who have lived here for a substantial part of their lives, have families here and are deeply connected to our community. Many, many families are at risk of being torn apart. Those who have an option to obtain U.S. status must act quickly; those who do not must begin making plans to return their home countries.

Who is an IR?

First, we need to define whom we are talking about when we say “IR,” which is the abbreviation for “immediate relative,” under both CNMI and U.S. immigration law. We need to look at CNMI law first because there are still a lot of people whose status depends on their CNMI-issued IR permits, and because most people we talk to are using some version of the CNMI definitions when they say “IR.”

Here’s the basic definition of “immediate relative” from the CNMI’s immigration statute:

Immediate relative means children, under the age of 21, whether natural or adopted, spouse and parents; provided, however, that no alien shall derive immediate relative status from a U.S. citizen child who is less than 21 years of age and, provided further, that a person born in the Northern Mariana Islands between and including January 1, 1974 to November 3, 1986 shall not lose their immediate relative status upon reaching the age of 21 years or thereafter. (3 CMC § 4393(c))

Immediate relatives of aliens with qualified entry permit status were granted derivative status under CNMI immigration law. Consequently, they were permitted to lawfully enter and remain in the CNMI concurrent with the status of their sponsoring relative. Unlike U.S. law, CNMI granted status to IRs without any further requirements. Immediate relatives of the following categories qualified: USCs, LPRs, CNMI permanent residents, citizens of the Freely Associated States (FAS), all three classes of CNMI investors (perpetual investors, two-year renewable investors, and retiree investors), as well as IRs of foreign national workers, subject to minimum income requirements. Pursuant to humanitarian policy, surviving spouses of USCs retained per-

petual immediate relative status, as long as they did not remarry. Abused IRs could also seek to have their IR status continued, despite being separated from or divorcing their abusers. IRs of foreign retiree investors also included, in addition to those usually included as IRs, permanently disabled adult children, stepchildren, siblings and stepsiblings, and parents-in-law of either the primary entry permit holder or the primary’s spouse.

In addition, the Governor’s Protocol, issued Sept. 15, 2009, included certain aliens in “common law marriage” relationships as IRs for purposes of issuing umbrella permits. That gave “common laws” an opportunity—a full two years—to get married to their USC and LPR “spouses,” and become eligible for green cards. As we said in last week’s column, common law marriage requires an authorizing statute to exist and is only recognized in 11 states; it is neither authorized nor recognized under CNMI law. It is most certainly not recognized under federal immigration law.

That’s a very wide range of people who qualified as IRs under CNMI law. By contrast, under U.S. immigration law, the definition of “immediate relative” is limited to the parents, legal spouse, and children (including children adopted under age 16 and stepchildren who became stepchildren while under age 18) of USCs, and the legal spouse and children (but not the parents) of LPRs. IRs of USCs are entitled to green cards as soon as their applications are approved by USCIS or the U.S. Department of State, depending whether they are able to apply from within the U.S. or must apply abroad. IRs of LPRs must wait for their green cards until visas are available. (See the May 2011 Visa Bulletin at <http://tinyurl.com/3jzmjmr> for the latest information.)

What’s an IR to do?

So what can an IR do to protect his or her status? The IR—and the family to which he or she is an IR—must start with the realization that unless the law changes, the IR must have a U.S. immigration status in place, or at the very least an application working its way through the U.S. immigration system, by Nov. 28. After that, the answer is different for different groups of IRs. Here’s a brief summary for each of the most common groups:

1. IRs of USCs. This is the easiest plan to follow: the USC spouse, parent or adult child must petition for a green card, and the IR must file an application to adjust status (or, if it is necessary to go through a U.S. consulate abroad, the appropriate Department of State form), with supporting forms and documents. If the application is in process on Nov. 28, you should apply for parole in place, which is a form of humanitarian parole, well in advance of the cutoff date, so that the adjudication can be finished here without disrupting the lives of the IR and his or her family. If the IR is not eligible to become a LPR until a reasonably short time after Nov. 28—for example, the USC child does not turn 21 until, say, January 2012—he or she should seek humanitarian parole, again well in advance. If the IR’s eligibility is many months or even years away, look for another status in the interim, such as U.S. student status, CW1 (when it is available), or some other U.S. employment-based visa.

2. IRs of LPRs. The wait can take years, but the LPR relative should file a Form I-130 now, to shave as much time off the process as possible. The IR should look for an interim status (see above), but needs to be aware of the possibility that the application may eventually be adjudicated at a consulate abroad rather than in the CNMI. People sometimes say to us, “it’s going to take a long time.” We always respond, “the time will pass, anyway—start now.”

3. ‘Common Law’ IRs. The answer to this one should be simple: get married, and apply as the IR of a USC or LPR. Of course, in reality there are sometimes messy details to be attended to, such as the need for one or both parties to divorce a former spouse. If that is the case, don’t wait. We had a call just this week from a “common law spouse” who has two young children with a USC whose marriage to someone else came apart years ago—but who didn’t get divorced. Now he must do so, and it will take at least a month even if the divorce is not contested. And the offices that issue CNMI marriage licenses will not accept an application until 30 days after a divorce decree is issued, even if the divorce is by stipulation. The situation is urgent because she was served with an ICE notice to appear at a removal hearing in August. Although a pending green card application may provide

ment should stop in Marpi, but we are saying that there must be full public disclosure and careful planning of any development that takes place there. The community should be afforded sufficient notice and information. Public hearings should be conducted. The government has a duty to listen to the concerns of the community, weigh priorities, and consider alternatives.

That is really all that is being asked of the CIP Authorized Rep-

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By MAYA KARA and
BRUCE MAILMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

relief from removal, four months may not be enough to get everything in place.

4. Surviving Spouses. U.S. immigration law provides that an IR can self-petition for a green card for up to two years after the death of a USC spouse. A new law, effective in October 2009, gives surviving spouses who were previously eligible, but did not timely file, until Oct. 28, 2011, to file their petitions. Minimum income requirements do not apply to most surviving spouses. If you are in this category, and a lot of people who had CNMI surviving spouse status are, you must file now. This is a window of opportunity that will not come again, and the window closes on Oct. 28, 2011. After that, you must file within two years of the death of the USC spouse, or forever lose your opportunity to do so.

5. Victims of Abuse. Physically and emotionally abused spouses and children of USCs and LPRs can also self-petition for green cards. If you were abused, even if the abuse never became public, you should determine whether you are eligible. If you are not sure, we suggest that you contact Guma Esperanza through its hotline, 234-5100. We have been very impressed by their work with victims of abuse, and the services that Guma Esperanza offers go well beyond the shelter that it maintains. Remember also, the Violence Against Women Act applies to male victims as well.

6. Victims of Human Trafficking or Violent Crime. Many young women were brought to the CNMI as waitresses and nightclub hostesses, only to find that they were expected to provide various forms of sexual services ranging from nude dancing to outright prostitution. Again, Guma Esperanza, together with the federal Ombudsman’s Office and Micronesian Legal Services have been instrumental in obtaining T-visas and U-visas for these victims of trafficking. We also have seen a less commonly known form of trafficking: young teenagers, who were brought to the CNMI under the guise of adoption, but who were actually treated as indentured servants and, in at least one case, physically mistreated. Although not in the usual IR categories, T visa holders are eligible for a green card, and derivative status is available for their spouses and children. We also have “U” visa clients who are applying for appropriate status for their spouses.

7. IRs of FAS citizens, and CNMI Permanent Residents and their IRs. These are both small, vulnerable groups who are typically long-term CNMI residents, who are not included in the U.S. definition of immediate relative. USCIS has been very sensitive to these individuals’ situation. Current policy is to provide renewable humanitarian parole, allowing these people to continue their lives without disruption. If you are a member of either of these groups, you should apply now. U.S. Work Authorization is also available for holders of parole in place.

By “apply now,” we mean “right now.” Nov. 28 is just seven and a half months away. As the old cartoon character Yosemite Sam used to say, “Time’s a-wastin!”

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

representative, the CIP Contracting Officer, and all our leaders at this point: Stop the power pole project, and hold public hearings. Give the community a chance to learn about, understand, and influence the development taking place in Marpi. Be open in your decision-making process, and include us in it.

Marpi belongs to all of us, and if it is destroyed, there is no turning back.

MARPI

From Page 10

who would like to have lights and running water, or to stop plans to bring a stable source of power to the landfill so that leachate pumps can function properly. No one is saying that all forms of develop-

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°	▲ 87° ▾ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms ▲ 87 ▾ 78
Yap	Thunderstorms ▲ 85 ▾ 77
Chuuk	Showers ▲ 84 ▾ 77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy ▲ 91 ▾ 75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms ▲ 88 ▾ 77
Majuro	Showers ▲ 86 ▾ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 69 ▾ 61
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 79 ▾ 50
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▾ 68
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59 ▾ 43
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 51
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▾ 79
Melbourne	Rain	▲ 60 ▾ 55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▾ 70
New York	Rain	▲ 59 ▾ 46
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 59 ▾ 48
Paris	Sunny	▲ 58 ▾ 37
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 62 ▾ 50
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▾ 52
Salem	Showers	▲ 52 ▾ 35
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▾ 45
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 61 ▾ 41
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 59 ▾ 44
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 60 ▾ 48

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:04 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
8:25 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.2 Feet
1:00 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.6 Feet
8:37 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Today	12:42 PM	12:57 AM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Wednesday	1:40 PM	1:45 AM
Thursday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM	Thursday	2:39 PM	2:32 AM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM	Friday	3:37 PM	3:17 AM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM	Saturday	4:38 PM	4:03 AM

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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010			
DEPARTURES		ARRIVALS	
SAIPAN-GUAM		GUAM-SAIPAN	
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)		NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN	
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)		OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN	
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)		BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN	
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN	
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)		SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN	
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN	
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN	
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN

No to CUC's base rate hike

Editor's Note: The following is the author's comments submitted to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on CUC's petition to increase its base rate.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is again petitioning for another rate increase, this time in a form of a base rate (non-LEAC) increase. CUC's LEAC rate was recently increased from .24 to .28 to reflect the cost of fuel and lube oil for their generators on all three islands.

The reason given by CUC CFO Charles Warren, as quoted in the March 25, 2011, edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, was that "these are tough times. It is difficult to ask for even these few dollars of rate increase at this time. We really have tried to operate off of new efficiencies and federal grants before asking our customers for this new base rate increase."

So Mr. Warren, what happened to your operating off of new efficiencies and federal grants? What happened since you are now petitioning CPUC for this base rate increase? The next time you make a statement in the media let me recommend that you save your apologies. The customers of CUC do not need an apology. What they need is a good utility service with reasonable rates.

I urge the PUC commissioners not to approve this base rate increase as this will only aggravate CUC's financial conditions. Case in point: CUC will realize a decreased number of customers, both residential and commercial. CUC's contentions as stated above is not convincing to merit such a rate increase. CUC must heed my recommendation to revisit their regulations on disconnection practices. CUC's practice of sending out individual disconnection notices to its customers after billing has been sent is wasteful and costly. Imagine that for each notice, this consist of pre-printed carbonized envelope, printing of such notice, man hours to print the disconnection notices, bulk postage, and the delivery of notices to the post office. I have recommended this to the former CUC executive director and present director, Abe Malae. Their response was that they have different billing cycles and that this probably won't be practical. So I gather that this is not practical for CUC but its very practical for IT&E.

IT&E does not mail out bulk disconnection notices. They have it printed out in both local newspapers. That's it! I would think that the space in the paper would probably cost IT&E \$25

per notice. CUC probably has a customer base of about 8,000 or more but just imagine if 5,000 disconnection notices are being sent out by mail on a monthly basis and let's say that roughly each disconnection notice is pegged at a dollar apiece. That's \$5,000 per month! There are other cost-cutting measures that CUC can implement that can stave off or minimize rate increases that I've relayed to Mr. Malae but have not been taken seriously and so again I urge the commission not to approve this base rate increase.

The commission should first ask CUC what is the CNMI government's standing in each of their accounts. Are they up to date in their account payments or are they in arrears? I hate to say it but residential and commercial customers of CUC are actually the ones that are holding CUC afloat since the CNMI government is always behind in its payments to CUC.

The next question the commission should ask CUC is whether the government, when disconnected for non-payment, is also assessed a reconnection fee, such as residential and commercial customers are? A few months ago the legislative building up on Capital Hill had its power cut off because its payment was not remitted to CUC on time. After about 20 to 30 minutes of being disconnected, power was then restored. In this instance, I truly doubt that CUC assessed a reconnection charge. Then again, at the time CUC was under executive order and a waiver would be a sure thing.

Past reports indicated that this base rate increase is so that CUC can fund the fuel pipeline that stretches from Mobil terminal to the power plant in Lower Base. While this is to satisfy stipulated order No. 2 as ordered by the U.S. District Court, I am somewhat puzzled that CUC has not made a request to the CNMI government to avail of CIP funding, which has roughly around \$57 million in unspent funds. Although CUC is an autonomous agency, it is still a government entity. If there was ever a time to use these funds it is now! CUC requires at least \$11 million to address all oil management needs as well as to purchase a new information management system. Recently CUC reportedly overcharged the CNMI government to the tune of \$200,000. This is a big chunk of change and, yes, CUC does need a new information management system. Again, this commission must ask the question as to whether the CNMI government was the only entity overcharged or others as well but were swept under the rug for fear of lost revenue or embarrassment or both. CPUC must investigate this

By FRANCISCO S. DELA CRUZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Francisco S. Dela Cruz is a member of the House of Representatives in the 17th CNMI Legislature.



matter once and for all as I believe that this information management system is unstable at best and as Mr. Malae has stated in the past, the system is always crashing. You as commissioners have the fiduciary duty not only to regulate rates for CNMI utilities but to investigate and ask the hard questions whether CUC is doing everything in its power to reduce cost.

CUC has again acquired the consulting services of Economist.com for rate consulting services. I recall that this is the same consulting company that was hired by CUC when I first came into office in the 15th CNMI Legislature. At that time there was a public hearing at Oleai Elementary about a, you guessed it, "a rate increase." At that time I wondered: Why would any company hire anyone to tell them or advise them on how to raise rates? I am sure that we have a lot of people on island that are pretty good with numbers. During one of our meetings with CUC and Economist.com, I asked about the estimated appraised value of our Power Plant 1. Economist.com's answer was that we should put it on eBay! So now we have Economist.com back on island consulting with CUC. I wonder if they still feel that we should put Power Plant 1 on eBay??

CPUC, this is what this base rate increase is going to pay. Not just the oil pipeline from the Mobil terminal to Lower Base but to Economist.com, who is here to show CUC how to increase its rates and tell us that in order to get an appraised value for our engines we should put it on eBay!

In conclusion, I urge the CPUC not to approve the 5th change order between CUC and TeleSource as this will have an added detrimental effect on the cost of electrical utility, not just on Tinian but the entire CNMI.

Again, for the last time, do not approve this request for a base rate increase and do not approve of this change order between CUC and Telesource!

All for autism

By THOMAS M. THORNBURGH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

This is a message to our families in the CNMI who are touched by autism. As an advocate for about a decade now with the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Services Inc. or NMPASI, I see tremendous growth in our community as far as autism is concerned. Although we live on tiny islands that don't even register on some maps, I say to you all that there is support in our community.

One such support system is the Autism Association of the CNMI or ASCNMI. ASCNMI is a parent organization that provides support for families who have a child or children with autism and other disabilities.

Furthermore, your child also has the right to an education that is free to parents in the public school setting. The CNMI Public School System's Special Education program is dedicated to providing educational support services to our children with autism—a whole range of services from speech services to assistive technology to adaptive physical education. All you have to do is refer your child to a Child Study Team who will observe and evaluate your child's strengths and weaknesses and see if the child does need academic assistance.

If your child needs Special Education services to succeed academically, then an Individualized Education Plan or IEP is cre-

ated to ensure that they address these needs so that your child progresses. This comes with a caveat, however; make sure you speak up. In my line of work, we always remind our clients that the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

Autism today is on the rise. This is a fact that has been confirmed by many studies in the United States and all over the world. Autism affects the ability of one to communicate and interact with others. It may also involve self-stimulating repetitive movements. Diagnosing autism is based on observations of behavior only. There are no medical tests. No answer as to what causes it, but more research is being done and sooner or later, we will be able to get a better grasp of it. The important thing is that we keep going, keep asking, keep learning and keep growing.

People with autism are people first. They have the same rights as everyone else, and deserve to be treated like everyone else, with dignity and respect. Autistic people have also contributed to the world in many ways. Take for example, Leonardo Da Vinci, who took 12 years to paint the lips of the Mona Lisa, amongst other things. Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Jackson were both U.S. presidents. The mathematician Albert Einstein, and many more have been suggested to have had some form of autism based on their behaviors.

During April Autism Awareness Month 2010, the ASCNMI and NMPASI, along with other community groups, put on a day-

long conference that highlighted autism. The conference focused on local capacity and featured folk from our community who work with children with autism, including Special Education's behavioral specialist Lynn Corella, autism teachers Mark Staal and Jerry Diaz, and a Public School System counselors' presentation on bullying. We also had parents of children with autism giving testimonials, the Developmental Disabilities Council, and Tom Camacho of the Governor's Office. This information was also shared with Tinian at a conference at Fleming Hotel and Rota at the Rota Roundhouse.

Awareness is the key to understanding and assisting our people with autism. Come and take part at our annual conference on April 30, 2011, at a venue that will be announced soon. We also invite you to our Hot Dog Walk this Saturday, April 16, at the Last Command Post at 3pm for a 3-mile walk and get a barbecue hotdog afterwards.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at NMPASI at 235-7273 or 235-7274; TTY at 235-7278; Fax at 235-7275 or online at www.nmpasi.com. Thank you for your time and April is Autism Awareness Month 2011 and the local CNMI theme for this month is "All For Autism."

Thomas M. Thornburgh is a project specialist of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Services Inc. and is the Autism Awareness Month Coordinator.

Letters to the Editor

Terrifying nightmare

My brothers and sisters, I have something to write and share with you all that happened way back in the Trust Territory time. Perhaps many native people are aware of this. During the TT period Saipan had a municipal police. What they did was, if people didn't have dog tags on their pets, the pets would be caught from your residence or on the streets and put into cages. These cages were being pulled by the municipal police jeep. They would go through all the villages looking for dogs that have no tags capture them. They would also bring prisoners with them to assist. The most interesting part is they would drive down to the old dumping grounds on

Agingan Point with the dogs and throw them into the water one by one and start shooting the poor dogs with their service pistols, just like having target practice. The sharks were so happy because they had food to eat. I felt sorry for all those poor innocent dogs. This is the most terrifying nightmare I had ever encountered in my lifetime. I was only 8 years old at the time, but that will forever haunt me until this day. When they abolished the municipal police, the people were no longer required to obtain dog tags for their pets. All dogs were allowed to roam freely until this day. Starting June 2011, perhaps our mayor should revive the municipal police

to capture stray dogs on the streets and dogs without tags. For sure the next agenda on the mayor's list is to have all cats owners register and have his or her pets tagged. Mayor Donald Flores, I don't blame you, I blame the past. I respect you as a mayor of Saipan. One suggestion sir, you had accomplished the animal shelter and tags for the dogs. Now you can find a location for a pet cemetery so it would complete the picture of your accomplishments.

Ray Agluto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Business

United Airlines marks 85th year with commemorative aircraft

Friend Ship aircraft featuring retro livery to take flight



CHICAGO— United Airlines commemorates its 85th anniversary today by unveiling an Airbus A-320 painted in the airline's 1970s-era "Friend Ship" livery at an employee celebration at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

"We are proud to celebrate United's 85th anniversary with the more than 85,000 co-workers and thousands of retirees who have built the world's leading airline," said Jeff Smisek, United's president and chief executive officer.

Employee celebrations continue throughout the week as the Friend Ship visits other United and Continental hub airports, including Denver International Airport, San Francisco International Airport, and Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport, the airline's largest hub. Last fall, United employees selected the Friend Ship, which features stripes of deep red and sky blue



A United Airlines Airbus A-320 with the carrier's retro 1970s-era "Friend Ship" livery takes off in this file photo.

and a regal star pattern, from United's historical liveries.

"The heart of my experience at United has been working with the people who make this airline great," said Jack Lampe, a 51-year veteran of United and Capital Airlines, which merged

with United in 1961. During his career, Lampe performed most airport operations functions, and is widely credited for leading the industry in anti-icing capabilities. "We can be proud of our accomplishments and the service we've delivered

for the past 85 years."

United's First Flight

United's history began April 6, 1926, when a small Swallow biplane owned by Walter Varney completed the first airmail delivery, landing to cheering crowds

in Nevada after a flight across a harsh, mountainous route. While other aviation legends saw air travel as a challenge and a sport to be conquered, Varney was among the first to recognize its business potential.

Varney then founded Varney Air Service in 1926 after acquiring an airmail contract. He later sold the company to United Aircraft and Transport, which would change its name to United Air Lines in 1933. In 1934, Varney and his business partner Louis Mueller founded Varney Speed Lines, which was sold and renamed Continental Airlines in 1937. Both airlines would eventually become industry giants with service to hundreds of points in the U.S. and around the globe. In May 2010, United and Continental merged to become the world's leading airline.

step up from only a few years earlier when two passengers rode on top of mailbags, wearing parachutes and goggles. In 1936, people could fly coast to coast, allowing at least 20 hours for the trip, but generally bought tickets at the door of the plane just before takeoff.

By comparison, today, the new United flies more than 150 million customers each year, equal to about half the population of the U.S., and travelers can book flights from virtually anywhere. United's largest aircraft, the 747-400, seats 374 travelers in modern comfort, offering flat-bed seats, personal inflight entertainment, hot meals and world-class service.

The new United features the world's most comprehensive route network, offering customers access to destinations on six continents and nonstop or one-stop service from virtually anywhere in the United States. With the most modern and fuel-efficient fleet among America's network carriers, United takes to the sky with 5,675 daily departures from nearly 375 airports.

BoH offers free 'The Basics of Banking' seminar

Bank of Hawaii will hold its "The Basics of Banking" on April 20, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at its Garapan branch along Pale Arnold Rd. in Puerto Rico.

"Some people save money in a shoe box while others use a piggy bank. Attend 'The Basics of Banking' to familiarize yourself with various deposit products



Bank of Hawaii that banks offer so that you'll be able to select the services that best suits your needs," said the bank in its media release.

In this seminar, you'll learn:

- What deposit products and services banks offer
- What a checking account is and how to use it
- What a debit card is and how to use it
- How to manage a checking account
- How to avoid overdraft fees

Herminio Matsumoto and Joanne Aldan Saipan will conduct the April 20 "The Basics of Banking" seminar.

The bank's Smart Money Seminars are held as a community service throughout the year.

They are free and open to anyone to attend. For more information, visit www.boh.com/pacificseminars. (**BoH**)

Supreme Court ruling on oral complaints

Question: I told my supervisor that I didn't think they should be taking money out of my salary for a customer that left without paying his bill. I've only had a few cash register shortages in over five years of employment, but they were deducted also. I only make minimum wage. I'm worried that I might be fired for complaining. What can I do if they do fire me?

If you are fired or any other adverse action is taken against you, you should discuss this first with your HR manager. If that doesn't work, then you should immediately visit the U.S. Department of Labor Office in the Marina Heights II Building (233-0730). You do have protections under law against retaliation for making a complaint.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently determined, in a 6-2 decision issued on March 22, 2011, that an oral complaint about an employer's violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act, FLSA, can trigger the retaliation protections of the Act. The question in the case was whether the phrase "filed any complaint" in the FLSA of 1938 applied only to written complaints.

Employees who lodge complaints regarding violations of the FLSA have protection against retaliation, similar to the protections for placing or being involved in an EEO complaint. Both the Department of Labor and the EEOC view retaliation as a serious violation as it strikes at an employee's ability to exercise the protections provided by law. Even if the initial complaint is found to be unsubstantiated, retaliation would still be a separate serious violation. With regard to labor issues, 29 USC §215 (a)(3) lists as a prohibited act "to discharge or in any other manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter."

As a brief definition, retaliation has occurred when an employee places a complaint, internally or outside the company, or otherwise participates in the complaint process, and an adverse action occurs to the employee, such as termination, demotion, bad appraisal, or similar employment actions, and the adverse action can be shown to be related to the filing of the complaint. Two questions that have been interpreted differently by the various courts have been whether an oral complaint is sufficient to trigger the retaliation protections and

whether that complaint has to be made to a government agency or if making it to the employer is sufficient to gain protection.

The March 22 case, *Kasten v. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corp.* (<http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/10pdf/09-834.pdf>), arose from complaints Kevin Kasten said he made to his former employer about where it kept the time clocks. Their location prevented the recording of time required for putting on and taking off necessary protective equipment. Mr. Kasten said he had complained about the practice orally to a shift supervisor and to his employer through its grievance procedure. The company fired Mr. Kasten for what it said were unrelated reasons, and he sued, asserting that his dismissal was retaliation. The lower courts dismissed the suit on the ground that the 1938 law did not cover oral complaints.

The Supreme Court reversed the lower courts and held that the FLSA anti-retaliation provision covered oral complaints. The majority opinion concluded that the 29 USC language, "filed any complaint," did not require that the complaint be in written form, provided that it was sufficiently clear. As the question was not timely raised in the case, the Court did not address the related issue of whether strictly internal employee complaints—that is, employee complaints that are communicated only to the employer but not to a government agency or a court—invoke the FLSA's anti-retaliation protections.

Lower courts are divided on this question. The majority view held by eight federal Courts of Appeals is that internal complaints to an employer are protected, while the minority view held by two appellate courts is that only complaints to the government are protected.

So what should employers and Human Resource staff do? Since the Court did not decide whether internal complaints are covered by the anti-retaliation provisions of the FLSA, common sense and caution would suggest that the most prudent course would be to assume that internal complaints regarding possible violations of the FLSA are protected. It would also be wise for HR staff to review and update their retaliation policies and complaint procedures, as necessary, and train front-line supervisors on how to spot complaints, especially oral complaints. If a written or oral complaint is received, employers

HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, has been a resident of the CNMI for more than 14 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.

should investigate and take any necessary corrective action, ensuring that the complaining party is protected from retaliation.

I would like to close with some commonsense advice to both employers and employees from a knowledgeable friend who reviewed this article for me. "Even though we live in an "employment-at-will" environment, good companies do not fire employees for making complaints. That would be an excellent way to destroy employee morale, lose good employees and face charges of retaliation. However, if a company does terminate someone for legitimate reasons, the prudent company will fully document the reasons for the firing. Disgruntled employees can make all kinds of accusations, both internally and to outside agencies. The side with the best documentation usually wins. Employees, who feel the need to make complaints, are better protected by putting them into writing. Although verbal complaints might be protected by law, proving that they were made might be difficult. The bottom line for both employers and employees is that it is not necessarily what happened but what can be proved that will hold up."

My added advice: Good employee-employer communication and good management that includes mutual respect and full compliance with employment laws will prevent most labor problems.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to hrsupportcnmi@gmail.com or editor@saipantribune.com.

Nation

White House: Obama to lay out spending plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—One budget deal down, President Barack Obama and Congress began to pivot Sunday from the painful standoff over this year's spending to a pair of defining debates over the nation's borrowing limit and the election-year budget.

Much will be revealed at midweek, when the House and Senate are expected to vote on a budget for the remainder of this fiscal year and Obama reveals his plan to reduce the deficit, in part by scaling back programs for seniors and the poor. Across the dial on Sunday, messengers from both parties framed the series of spending fights as debates over cuts - a thematic victory for House Republicans swept

to power by a populist mandate for smaller, more austere government.

"We've had to bring this president kicking and screaming to the table to cut spending," said House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., on "Fox News Sunday."

Presidential adviser David Plouffe said Obama has long been committed to finding ways for the nation to spend within its means. He confirmed that the president would unveil more specifics for deficit reduction with a speech Wednesday that would reveal plans to reduce the government's chief health programs for seniors and the poor.

"You're going to have to look at Medicare and Medicaid and

see what kind of savings you can get," Obama adviser David Plouffe said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions, the top Republican on the Senate Budget Committee, called Obama's planned speech "an apparent recognition that the budget plan he submitted to Congress ... fails to address our dire fiscal challenges."

In a press release Sunday, Sessions said any revision to the 2012 budget submitted by Obama in February "must be presented in a detailed, concrete form" for scrutiny by the House and Senate budget committees and the Congressional Budget Office.

The presidential speech on Wednesday is part of official

Washington's shift from the standoff over spending through September to next year's budget and beyond. Alone and together, the prospects of raising

the debt ceiling and passing a 2012 spending plan are politically perilous, a knot that lawmakers will spend the coming months trying to unravel.

That means competing plans to shore up the nation's long-term fiscal health in a debate many predict will make Friday's nail-biter look minor.

2012 in sight, Obama looks back to Chicago again

CHICAGO (AP)—President Barack Obama's relationship with his hometown may be best described as a long-distance love affair. He lavishes attention on it from afar and proud Chicago pines for its hometown hero, though the two rarely see each other.

That looks like it's about to change.

Obama is returning to his roots as he embarks on his re-election race for 2012. He's setting up his campaign headquarters in a downtown high-rise near Grant Park, the site of his victory celebration on election night in November 2008.

He's coming back Thursday to raise money, a week after launching his second White House bid with an understated email and online video.

The president is putting Chicago in the spotlight again as he tries to recreate the grass-roots, start-up flavor of his first campaign and do what no incumbent president has done in decades: try to win re-election from a location outside Washington.

A Chicago base also could reinforce a connection to a city that aides say keeps Obama grounded while he lives in the nation's capital.

"Nobody is more eager to be out and nobody is more eager to be here than him," said David Axelrod, Obama's chief political strategist who left the White House this year to return to Chicago to work on the re-election and be closer to his Chicago-based family. "The conversation

in Washington is completely different than the conversation you hear out here."

Obama's advisers hope a Chicago location could insulate his campaign from some of the Washington chatter and news leaks that often plague

campaigns. A beyond-the-Beltway headquarters could allow them to offset the notion that Obama, who campaigned as an outsider above the partisan fray and promised a new approach to politics, has become the ultimate political insider.

ELECTION 2012

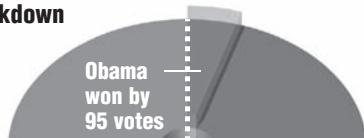
2012 electoral vote scenarios

President Barack Obama can lose seven states he won in 2008, but he almost certainly needs to win either Florida or Ohio, plus hold the five swing states of Pennsylvania, Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Minnesota.

2008 Electoral College breakdown

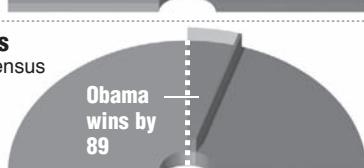
Obama/Biden 365
McCain/Palin 173

NOTE: Dotted line is amount needed to win, 270 electoral votes



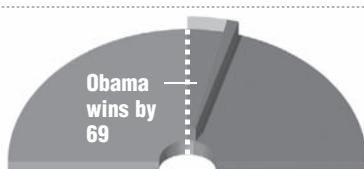
Obama loses 6 electoral votes

Electoral vote shift from 2010 Census reapportionment



20 more votes lost

Swing states that went strongly Republican in 2010:
Iowa (6), New Hampshire (4), Wisconsin (10)



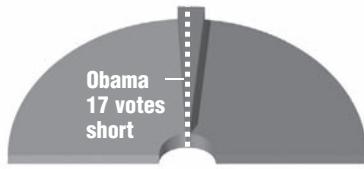
39 more votes lost

"Gravy" states that tipped Democratic in Obama wave (all tilt Republican in 2012): Indiana (11), North Carolina (15), Virginia (13)



47 more votes lost

Swing states Obama narrowly won that elected Republican governors in 2010 and switched at least three congressional districts to Republican: Florida (29), Ohio (18)



Source: Los Angeles Times reporting
Graphic: Doug Stevens, Los Angeles Times

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In this photo released by NBC, David Plouffe, White House Senior Adviser, is interviewed on NBC's "Meet the Press" in Washington Sunday, April 10, 2011.

Tornado destroys dozen or more blocks in Iowa town

MAPLETON, Iowa (AP)—Jamy Garden's house began to rumble with the approach of a tornado that at one point measured three-quarters of a mile wide. Then the windows shattered, spraying her with glass. Using her cell phone as a flashlight, she fled downstairs and called her grandmother.

On Sunday, she returned home, wandering her backyard in a blood-splattered hooded sweat shirt, her right hand and left knee wrapped in gauze. Around her lay a tangle of tree branches, twisted siding, broken glass and a canoe that wasn't hers.

The tornado that struck the evening before damaged more than half of Mapleton, a town of 1,200 in western Iowa, Mayor Fred Standa said Sunday. He estimated about 20 percent of the town was "almost flat."

The huge, centuries-old trees the town was named for had been pulled out of the ground and wrapped around houses and tossed on top of

cars, Standa said. In one case, a huge motor home had been flipped on its side.

"It's not a pretty sight," Standa said. "It's something nobody has seen in this town."

Garden's house survived, but everything inside was tossed around. Her two dogs were safe, but she hadn't yet found her cat.

"I don't know where our gazebo went," she said. "The garbage can right there, that was in the front yard. The shed is gone. I don't know what else to tell you. This is the most tumultuous thing I've ever experienced by far."

The tornado destroyed 12 to 15 blocks in the southwest corner of Mapleton when it struck about 7:20 p.m. Saturday, Monona County Sheriff Jeff Pratt said. The tornado destroyed about 100 homes beyond repair, and has displaced an estimated 500 to 600 residents, he said.

The tornado was on the ground for three and a half miles and measured three-quarters of

a mile wide at one point, according to the National Weather Service office in Valley, Neb. The twister was measured to be on the lower end of an EF3, which carries wind speeds of 136 to 165 mph.

The tornado was one of several reported in Iowa. The weather service said it had confirmed a total of four smaller twisters that touched down near Early and Nemaha, damaging several homes.

Storms moved through the nation's midsection again Sunday, with some reports of tornadoes in Wisconsin, where several homes were damaged or destroyed. No injuries were immediately reported.

In Mapleton, the roof was blown off a high school, power lines were downed and homes and buildings were destroyed. Pratt said two people were taken to hospitals with minor injuries. The weather service said it had received reports of 14 to 16 injuries, the most severe a broken leg.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hot, dry weather stokes raging Texas wildfires

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—Firefighters on Sunday continued battling out-of-control wildfires scorching nearly 400 square miles across the state, including a West Texas blaze that narrowly missed a historic frontier Army cavalry fort and a top astronomical research facility. A fast-moving wildfire had spread to more than 60,000 acres Sunday in Jeff Davis County and destroyed about 40 homes in Fort Davis before it raged north and east. The blaze that started Saturday night in Presidio County missed the McDonald Observatory, which was used as an evacuation shelter, said assistant director Anita Johnson.

Red River Valley flood fight shifts north of Fargo

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—The Red River Valley flood fight shifted Sunday from the cities of Fargo and Moorhead, Minn., to rural areas north of the north-flowing river, which crested Saturday night in Fargo at its fourth highest level in recorded history. Fargo officials said the metropoli-

tan area appears to be in good shape, but urged residents not to travel outside the city. About 60 miles of roads were closed in Cass County, where Fargo is located, and another 10 miles of roads were washed over, officials said. Interstate 29 north of Fargo was closed for about 25 miles. Some tributaries of the Red River were at record levels.

Federal judge, 103, still hearing cases in Kansas

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—In a courtroom in Wichita, the day begins much as it has for the past 49 years: Court is in session, U.S. District Judge Wesley Brown presiding. But what happens next is no longer routine; it's a testament to one man's sheer determination. As lawyers and litigants wait in respectful silence, Brown, who is 103, carefully steers his power wheelchair behind the bench, his stooped frame almost disappearing behind its wooden bulk. He adjusts under his nose the plastic tubes from the oxygen tank lying next to the day's case documents. Then his voice rings out loud and firm to his law clerk, "Call your case."

Asia

Month after quake, Japan homeless move into houses

RIKUZENTAKATA, Japan (AP)—One month after a devastating tsunami flattened their homes, some families took a step toward normalcy and moved into temporary housing, while Japan's prime minister promised Sunday to help fishermen along the devastated coast get back to their boats.

Rows of 36 boxy, gray houses line a junior high school parking lot in this port city pulverized by the March 11 wave, and, after a lottery, the first lucky few families moved in this weekend. Each unit is just 320 square feet (30 square meters), but replete with modern comforts like a television, refrigerator, microwave and washing machine—a welcome upgrade for the homeless, many of

whom have slept on the floors of school gyms for a month.

That's just one house for every 50 applicants. "It's a mystery how we were lucky enough to be chosen. It's like a dream," said Sakai Sasaki, 80, who had been living with relatives.

The city hopes to complete 400 units in eight different locations by mid May, although that will still only cover about one-quarter of the families in need. Other areas have similar plans, but Rikuzentakata's units are the first to be completed.

"When you think of the feelings of the evacuees, we want to build them even a day faster, or make just one unit more," said Saeki Suga, an official in charge of the housing plan for the city.

The 9.0-magnitude earth-

quake and the tsunami it generated flattened communities along hundreds of miles (kilometers) of coastline, and is thought to have killed more than 25,000 people.

Fishermen have borne a particularly heavy burden because many boats and piers were washed away. On top of that, radiation spewing from a nuclear plant disabled by the crushing wave has contaminated seafood. On Sunday, Prime Minister Naoto Kan visited Ishinomaki and promised to support the coastal city, where the fishing industry accounts for 40 percent of the economy.

"The government will do its utmost to help you," Kan, dressed in blue work clothes, told local people gathered near

the sea. "We will support you so that you can resume fishing."

Ishinomaki Mayor Hiroshi Kameyama told him the government needs to quickly build temporary homes for the 17,000 city residents who lost theirs and are living in shelters.

The last time Kan visited tsunami-hit towns, there was criticism that his government was distracted from the suffering of coastal communities by the nuclear crisis, which has heaped

more misery on the region.

Ahead of Monday's one-month anniversary, nuclear safety official Hidehiko Nishiyama apologized for the worry and inconvenience caused by the radiation spilling from the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

"We've done all we could to come this far," said Nishiyama. "Unfortunately we still cannot give any timeline for when we can move on to the next phase, but we are hoping to achieve

a sustainable cooling system, contain radiation and bring the situation under control as soon as possible."

He added, however, that it would be several months before normal cooling systems could be restored. Contamination in water pooling around the complex has slowed efforts to stabilize the reactors, emitting so much radiation in some places that workers can get in only for short periods of time, if at all.

In a move that prompted some criticism from neighboring countries, engineers decided earlier this month to deliberately pump less-contaminated water into the ocean from a storage facility to free up space for more highly radioactive water. They are also pumping out water from drains to keep it from backing up.

The pumping was set to end Sunday. Now that removal of the contaminated water is under way, officials are starting to consider options for restoring the cooling systems vital for preventing further reactor damage. But they won't know what will work best until the water is out of the way and they can see which parts are usable and which have been destroyed.

Plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. reiterated Sunday that it is not considering entombing the hot reactors in concrete, as was done at Chernobyl in 1986 when a reactor fire burned out of control.

"We are not opting for entombment at the moment," said spokesman Junichi Matsumoto. "We see that the Unit 1-4 reactors are relatively stabilized, judging from the reactor temperature and water level, while we are short of calling them stable."



Workers at the disaster countermeasures office take a moment of silence at the Miyagi Prefectural Government building in Sendai, northeastern Japan Monday, April 11, 2011, one month after a massive earthquake and tsunami ravaged Japan's northeastern coastal region. AP

PH court orders Marcos to return \$280,000

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court has ordered the widow of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos to return 12 million pesos (\$280,000) that her husband pocketed from the government's food agency in 1983, an official said Monday.

The amount may be considered minuscule compared to the estimated \$10 billion Marcos and his associates allegedly amassed during his 21 years in power, but the case marked a rare legal victory in efforts to reclaim at least some of the ill-gotten wealth.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government, which was formed after Marcos was ousted in 1986 with the task of running after the stolen money, has so far identified around \$6.5 billion and recovered cash and assets totaling around \$1.97 billion.

An antigraft court made the ruling Friday and gave Imelda Marcos 30 days to pay or, if she is unable to do so, provide a list of properties and assets to cover it, said court clerk Teresa Pabulayan.

The conviction was based on testimony by former National

Food Administrator Jesus Tanchanco, who said that Ferdinand Marcos instructed him by phone in 1983 to transfer the money to his private account.

Tanchanco was granted immunity from prosecution in 1988 in exchange for his testimony.

Imelda Marcos, 81, did not comment immediately, although Pabulayan said she was notified of the court's decision seven months ago and filed an appeal. The appeal was later dropped and the court announced its final ruling Friday.



Marcos

Beijing police halt unapproved church service

BEIJING (AP)—Beijing police on Sunday detained dozens of worshippers from an unapproved Christian church who were trying to hold services in a public space after they were evicted from their usual place of worship, a parishioner said.

Leaders of the unregistered Shouwang church had told members to gather at an open-air venue in Beijing for Sunday morning services, but police, apparently alerted to their plans, taped off the area and took away people who showed up to take part. Chinese authorities have been on high alert for large public gatherings in the wake of anonymous online calls for anti-government protests modeled on demonstrations in the Middle East and North Africa.

No major protests have occurred in China following the calls, but the security crackdown they sparked has resulted in the arrest or detention of dozens of public interest lawyers, writers,

intellectuals and activists.

China's Communist government allows worship only in state-approved churches, but many Christians belong to unregistered congregations. Such "house churches" are subjected to varying degrees of harassment by authorities.

More than 60 million Christians are believed to worship in China's independent churches, compared with about 20 million who worship in the state church, according to scholars and church activists.

A church member who went to the gathering spot for services and managed to evade police told The Associated Press that about 200 people were taken away and were being held at a local school. Their cellphones were confiscated, said the man, who would give only his English name, Kane, for fear of police reprisals.

An AP videographer saw about a dozen people escorted by police onto an empty city bus and driven away.

Shouwang pastor Yuan Ling said by telephone that he was unable to go to the venue because police had put him under house arrest Saturday night. Yuan said he knew of at least six other church members who were also under house arrest.

Yuan said fellow parishioners also told him that many worshippers were being held at a school in Beijing's Haidian district, though he wasn't sure of the exact number.

Shouwang had been holding services at a Beijing restaurant until they were evicted last week.

Ai Weiwei, an internationally known avant-garde artist who is also an outspoken government critic, became the highest-profile person targeted in the crackdown on dissent when he was detained at a Beijing airport a week ago. The Foreign Ministry says he is being investigated for alleged economic crimes, though Beijing police have yet to confirm he is in custody.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Tokyo governor re-elected despite tsunami gaffe

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo's governor won re-election Sunday, exit polls showed, despite a gaffe in which he suggested a March earthquake and tsunami were "divine punishment" for Japan. Shin-taro Ishihara, 78, had been expected to secure his fourth four-year-term in the gubernatorial race, and polls by public broadcaster NHK confirmed his victory after voting finished late Sunday. Election official Yuji Miura said official results would be available Monday.

Thai 'Red Shirts' mark anniversary of bloody clash

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's anti-government "Red Shirt" movement held a peaceful rally Sunday to mark the anniversary of a clash with the army a year ago that killed 25 people and rally supporters ahead of expected elections. The Red Shirts, who believe Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva came to power undemocratically, regularly

hold mass rallies in shows of strength after their militant two-month street sit-in was smashed last May by the military. A total of 91 people were killed and more than 1,400 hurt in a series of escalating confrontations after Abhisit rebuffed their demand that he step down and call immediate elections.

Plane crash kills 2, injures 4 in Philippine city

BAGUIO, Philippines (AP)—A small plane carrying six people crashed in a popular mountain resort city in the northern Philippines on Sunday, killing two of those on board and injuring the others, officials said. The six-seater Piper Aztec plane crashed and burst into flames on a hilly horse-riding trail in Camp John Hay, a former U.S. military recreation center, a few minutes after taking off from Baguio city's airport, regional military commander Lt. Gen. Gaudencio Pangilinan said. One passenger was killed instantly and another died later in a hospital, officials said.

The flamboyant former first lady, better known for her extensive shoe and diamond collection, returned from U.S. exile to the Philippines in 1991 and entered politics.

She was elected to the House of Representatives last May, her second time in Congress, while her son was voted in as a senator and her daughter as a provincial governor.

Despite massive human rights violations and a decade and a half of economic stagnation and political repression after Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law in 1972, the Marcoses still enjoy support, especially in the late strongman's northern stronghold.

Imelda Marcos had faced some 900 civil and criminal cases in Philippine courts, but all but a handful have been dismissed for lack of evidence.

The Marcoses have denied any wrongdoing.

World

African Union says Libya accepts cease-fire plan

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A delegation of African leaders said Sunday that their Libyan counterpart, Moammar Gadhafi, accepted their “road map” for a cease-fire with rebels, whom they will meet Monday. They met hours after NATO airstrikes battered Gadhafi’s tanks, helping Libyan rebels push back government troops who had been advancing quickly toward the opposition’s eastern stronghold.

The African Union’s road map calls for an immediate cease-fire, cooperation in opening channels for humanitarian aid and starting a dialogue between the rebels and the government. AU officials, however, made no mention of any requirement for Gadhafi to pull his troops out of cities as rebels have demanded.

“We have completed our mission with the brother leader, and the brother leader’s delegation has accepted the road map as presented by us,” said South African President Jacob Zuma. He traveled to Tripoli with the heads of Mali and Mauritania to meet with Gadhafi, whose more than 40-year rule has been threatened by the uprising that began nearly two months ago.

“We will be proceeding tomorrow to meet the other party to talk to everybody and present a political solution,” Zuma said, speaking at Gadhafi’s private Tripoli compound, Bab al-Aziziya. He called on NATO to end airstrikes to “give the cease-fire a chance.”

Gadhafi has ignored the cease-fire he announced after international airstrikes were authorized last month, and he rejects demands from the rebels, the U.S. and its European allies that he relinquish power immediately.

Ramtane Lamamra of Algeria, the



Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi looks at Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, adjusting his jacket, outside a tent where he is hosting a meeting with African leaders in Tripoli, Libya, Sunday, April 10, 2011. AP

head of the AU’s Peace and Security Council, said the demand to give up power was brought up in Sunday’s talks with the Libyan leader.

“There was some discussion on this but I cannot report on this. It has to remain confidential. It’s up to the Libyan people to chose their leaders democratically,” he told reporters in Tripoli.

Gadhafi enjoys substantial support

from countries of the AU, an organization that he chaired two years ago and helped transform using Libya’s oil wealth. So it is not clear whether rebels would accept the AU as a fair broker.

Though the AU has condemned attacks on civilians, last week its current leader, Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, decried foreign intervention in Libya’s nearly two-

down on protesters that killed an estimated 300 people.

The move could help ease public anger now largely directed at the military.

The pan-Arab news channel Al-Arabiya, which broadcast the speech, said it was recorded Saturday, a day after demonstrators gathered in huge numbers in Cairo’s Tahrir Square to demand that the military council that took over from Mubarak launch an investigation into his wealth.

The speech seemed to be as much about preserving his dignity as about denying the accusations against him.

“I was hurt very much, and I am still hurting—my family and I—from the unjust campaigns against us and false allegations that aim to smear my reputation, my integrity, my (political) stances and my military history,” Mubarak said.

The speech came as hundreds of protesters remain barricaded in Tahrir square, the epicenter of the uprising that forced Mubarak from office on Feb. 11 after 18 days of mass demonstrations.

Friday’s protest by tens of thousands was the biggest since Mubarak’s ouster. Despite constitutional amendments to allow free elections and other steps toward a freer political scene, many in the anti-Mubarak movement are skeptical.

tical of the military’s pledges to meet all demands.

Trust between the military and the reform movement suffered a serious setback when soldiers stormed their protest camp in the pre-dawn hours Saturday, killing at least one person and injuring 71 others.

That increased calls for the resignation of the head of the military council running the country, Defense Minister Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi, a Mubarak appointee. It also spurred protesters to retake Tahrir Square, shutting down traffic in the heart of the city.

By midnight Sunday, several hundred protesters remained barricaded there behind barbed wire, burned-out troop carriers and makeshift checkpoints they set up to keep out vehicle traffic and search people for weapons. There was no sign of the military.

Protester Ahmed Abu el-Nasr, a 26-year-old medical equipment salesman, said Mubarak’s summoning for questioning was a gesture that came too late and one that suggested the military council was stalling on allowing a prosecution.

He said the protesters want to see Mubarak back in Cairo and put on trial. They also want an investigation into the military’s use of violence against them on Saturday.

Egypt's ex-President Mubarak denies abuse of power

CAIRO (AP)—In the first remarks since his dramatic ouster, former President Hosni Mubarak denied that he used his position to amass wealth and property during three decades in power, and issued an emotional defense of his legacy.

The statement, broadcast Sunday at the end of a turbulent weekend that saw a deadly military crackdown on protesters, only stoked more public anger in the midst of Egypt’s turbulent transition to a more democratic system.

In the prerecorded audiotape, the 82-year-old Mubarak spoke with a tone of authority more in keeping with his past power than his current situation. He said he had agreed to “authorize” an investigation of his finances, and promised to sue all those who smeared his reputation.

As the ruling military council comes under increasing public pressure for its management of the post-Mubarak transition, the ex-president’s first words were a reminder that he still has a grip on the country’s mood.

Shortly after the speech was aired, Egypt’s prosecutor general announced he had issued orders summoning the ex-president and his two sons for questioning on the embezzlement allegations. The scope of the investigation was also widened to include the crack-

UNREST IN THE MIDDLE EAST



LATEST EVENTS April 9, 2011

1. **Egypt** Demonstrators burn cars and barricade themselves in Cairo’s Tahrir Square demanding resignation of the military’s chief; earlier troops violently dispersed a protest, killing at least one and injuring 71
2. **Syria** Security forces fire live ammunition to disperse a funeral march for some of the 37 people killed a day earlier
3. **Bahrain** Authorities detain and beat prominent human rights activist; widespread crackdown on the opposition continues
4. **Yemen** Hundreds of thousands of protesters rally for a second straight day to demand the ouster of President Saleh

Source: AP

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arming the fighters even while attempting diplomatic solutions.

Lamamra was confident the rebel leadership would accept the AU’s proposal when the delegation presents it to them Monday.

“We are convinced that what we have proposed is broad enough to be a base for the launch of peace talks. We are people of goodwill and determined to help Libya overcome this crisis,” he said.

Though the rebels have improved discipline and organization, they remain a far less powerful force than Gadhafi’s troops. Members of the international community have grown doubtful that the opposition can overthrow Gadhafi even with air support, and some are weighing options such as

WORLD BRIEFS

Gulf bloc calls on Yemen’s ruler to step down

SANA'A, Yemen (AP)—A regional bloc of oil-rich Arab nations along the Gulf, including powerful Saudi Arabia, called on Yemen’s president Sunday to step down as part of a deal with the protest movement demanding for his ouster after 32 years. Keeping up the pressure, tens of thousands of protesters complaining of poverty and corruption marched in the capital, Sanaa, on Sunday, a day after renewed clashes between demonstrators and security forces there. Witnesses said police fired a barrage of tear gas late Saturday and that many demonstrators suffered breathing problems.

The statement, by foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council meeting in the Saudi capital, called on President Ali Abdullah Saleh transfer his powers to his vice president in return for promises that neither he nor his family would be prosecuted for any crimes committed under his leadership.

UN, French fire on Gbagbo residence in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—United Nations and French helicopters fired rockets on strongman Laurent Gbagbo’s residence on Sunday in an assault the U.N. said was to retaliate for attacks by his forces on U.N. headquarters and civilians. U.N. Secretary-

General Ban Ki-moon said he had authorized the strikes, accusing Gbagbo of using heavy weapons against Ivory Coast civilians and the U.N. forces trying to protect them. Residents from nearby neighborhoods reported seeing two U.N. Mi-24 attack helicopters and a French helicopter open fire on the residence, where Gbagbo is holed up in a bunker. The residents couldn’t be named for fear of reprisal.

Witnesses: 4 protesters killed in key Syrian city

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian security forces and pro-government gunmen killed four protesters Sunday in the port city of Banias after the army sealed off the city as hundreds of protesters gathered, undaunted by the regime’s use of deadly force to quell more than three weeks of unrest, witnesses said. State TV reported that nine soldiers were killed in an ambush near the city. Details were sketchy because telephone lines, Internet access and electricity apparently were cut to most parts of the city. Army tanks and soldiers circled the city, preventing people from entering. But one witness, reached by telephone, said hundreds of protesters had gathered near the al-Rahman mosque when security forces and armed men in civilian clothes opened fire on them. The names of the dead were read out on mosque loudspeakers.

Focus

By LANCE CPL. GARRY J. WELCH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

URANOHAMA PORT, OSHIMA ISLAND, Japan—

More than 300 Marines and sailors with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, worked through rain, snow, and freezing temperatures cleaning Oshima Island during Operation "Field Day" on April 1-6. Through the use of heavy equipment, chainsaws, and their hands, the Marines worked 12-hour days sorting through debris, clearing roads, tearing down smashed houses and eagerly helping any locals still in the area whenever they asked.

The 31st MEU's Command Element, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, and Combat Logistics Battalion 31 participated in the operation.

"At first the cleanup effort was



Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, clear debris along the side of a port, April 4. Clearing the debris allowed more access for supplies to get in and made it safer for the locals still living in the area.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

US Marines, sailors clean up tsunami-hit Japan island

painstakingly slow," said Capt. Benjamin M. Middendorf, a platoon commander with Company G, BLT 2/5. "We didn't have any heavy equipment to move debris fast for the first two days, so it was all done by hand. Since the equipment has arrived, we have been able to clear 100 meters on each side of the port, and we are still making very good progress."

Clearing the perimeter of the port allowed more access to the area, and the delivery of much needed aid.

By the end of the operation, the Marines had reopened many roads that were once completely blocked by debris, moved more than 100 destroyed vehicles to a collection point, moved massive amounts of debris out of pub-

lic areas, and set up showers for locals to use.

"Before we got here the locals had not showered in three weeks," said Lance Cpl. David J. Henning, a water purification specialist with BLT 2/5. "We are using a system that heats up water purified at another site and allow them to shower with clean water."

The locals that utilized the showers were extremely grateful, and thanked the Marines before and after every shower.

"The showers are very good," said Murakami Seiko, a woman living in the school being used as shelters by more than 300 displaced locals. "I help cook for all the people staying here, so I couldn't go to the Japanese ship and

shower there. I really appreciate what they are doing for us, it makes things much easier."

While separating debris, the Marines found many of the locals' personal belongings that were not destroyed, and made it a point to set all of the items in one collection area near the center of the port so locals could reclaim them.

Among the things found were pictures, and hundreds of them.

"The first night we were here, the Marines were finding a lot of pictures, they were everywhere," said Gunnery Sgt. Richard I. Charley, Weapons Company platoon sergeant with BLT 2/5. "We were trying to figure out who they belonged to so we could return them. So we went across the street to a local and

tried to talk to her, but she didn't speak English. When we showed her the pictures her eyes started watering and she showed us that she knew them and would give them back to the owners."

From the reaction the Marines got, they knew they were making a big difference in the locals' lives.

"It made us want to help them more," said Charley. "It is reactions like this that motivates everyone out here."

The Marines find a lot of things in the debris that make them think of their families as well.

"I have brothers and sisters," said Cpl. Tyler Vaile, with BLT 2/5. "Every time I find a toy, or an item that looks like something they own, it makes me think of them and how devastated I

would be if something like this happened to them."

Through it all, the Marines know what they are doing is going to help improve the lives of those affected in more ways than one.

"We are here for a reason," said Vaile. "These people need our help; their houses are destroyed and they can't get out of the cold. Whether we are taking down bad guys or helping people out like this, we are Marines, it's what we do."

Though tired and cold, the Marines keep working, motivated by the difference they know they are making in peoples' lives, and by the progress they are seeing.

"It's great to see how much we have done," said Lance Cpl. Jackson M. Roddy, team leader with BLT 2/5. "What it looked like before and how it looks now is amazing. We cleared a lot of debris and opened up a lot of space."

The 31st MEU's involvement is part of a larger U.S. government response, coordinated after a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck Japan causing widespread damage. As part of Operation Tomodachi, the 31st MEU is ready to support our Japanese partners and to provide assistance when called upon.



A Marine with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, drives heavy equipment carrying debris along a port that was lowered 80 inches from the earthquake.



Marines with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, pull a cable from the winch of a bulldozer, April 4. The Marines were in the process of taking down a house damaged beyond repair, making it safer for the locals in the area.



A Marine with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, cuts up a tree on top of a pile of rubble, April 4.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Q&A: Fuel gauge out of touch with reality

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: The fuel gauge on my 2005 TrailBlazer is not working properly. I fill the tank, but the "low fuel" light comes on and the gauge reads empty for the first 20 miles. Then the light goes out, the gauge reads empty to one-quarter and "low fuel" chimes whenever it wants to. What's going on?

ANSWER: Instrumentation in modern motor vehicles isn't quite as simple as it used to be. Before computerized systems, most instruments operated by providing battery voltage through the instrument to the sending unit which grounded the circuit, varying the instrument reading. Today, the sending unit supplies a signal to the powertrain control module (PCM), which then communicates to the instrument panel cluster, which then displays the information. A scan tool can troubleshoot the system by identifying any related fault codes. Because of the consistency of the inaccurate fuel level, I'd look for an issue with the sending unit.

Q: I own a 2003 Oldsmobile Bravada with 51,000 miles that has given me excellent service except for one very frustrating problem: ignition failure. The ignition switch has been replaced three times in seven years. The dealer tells me there are no fault codes, and they do not know what's causing the failure.

A: My Alldata automotive database pulled up GM bulletin 04-06-03-002, dated February 2004, that suggests checking and reindexing the ignition switch in the steering column. Apparently, if the switch is not indexed properly, certain circuits can either remain on after turning the key off or fail to connect when the key is turned on. The positioning tab on the lock cylinder must align with and lock into the tab slot on the lock module.

Q: We have a 2007 GMC Yukon. Sometimes it acts as if the battery is dead and will not start, and jump-starting doesn't help. Several different dealers haven't found the trouble. The vehicle only has 30,000 miles on it, so we don't want to trade it off.

A: The fact that you can't jump-start it with a booster battery is a good clue. GM bulletin 07-08-49-018, dated September 2007, identified the possibility of the parking brake assembly chafing or cutting wiring in the instrument panel harness. Ask the dealer to check the five points of potential contact as outlined in the bulletin.

Q: I have a problem with my 1994 Explorer with 160,000 miles on it. On rare occasions while running errands, it will not restart after a short rest. It always starts when cold, but every now and then it will just crank away but not start. If I let it rest for a while, it starts instantly.

The local Ford dealer replaced the two battery cables, but two weeks later the car would not start after I spent 10 minutes in a store. The dealer could not re-create the problem and gave up. They indicated they checked the fuel pressure, and it was OK. Your thoughts?

A: I'm sure the fuel pressure was fine when the car was at the dealership and restarting fine. The question is: What's the fuel pressure when the engine will not restart? Regardless of outside temperature, if temperatures in and around the fuel lines, fuel rail and injectors are high enough to boil the fuel after the engine is shut down, it may not restart due to vapor lock. With high fuel-injection pressures—60 psi or higher in many cases—and higher volatility fuels today, underhood temperatures can percolate the fuel, causing vapor lock and a loss of fuel pressure.

Try idling the engine for 60 seconds before shutting it down and open the hood to the safety latch to let heat escape. If this helps, the only thing you can do is try different fuels and make sure the cooling system and airflow through the radiator are keeping engine temperatures under control.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@tribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

Overdrive

Electric cars likely to spark new 'smart grid'

By KEVIN G. HALL
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON—Entire industries grew up around gasoline-powered cars, ranging from the ubiquitous filling stations to fast-food restaurants along highway exits. Similarly, the rise of electric cars probably will transform more than just the automobile.

"The moment you put a plug on a car, you've got these two titan industries coming together and supporting a customer," said Ed Kjaer, the director of electric transportation for Southern California Edison, a giant utility.

The alliance between utilities and carmakers will lead to numerous changes, he predicts, including a faster build of the "smart grid." This involves the use of digital technology by utilities to allow consumers real-time measures of their energy use.

For power providers, the smart grid allows them to provide pricing that encourages conservation and better utilizes off-peak hours overnight, when there's less draw on electricity as factories and office buildings ramp down.

In a true smart grid, digital communications between a utility and the consumer's home could stagger the charge coming to an electric car depending on the overall demand for power. Big off-peak energy users could see lower bills.

This is one factor behind General Electric's November announcement that it will purchase 25,000 electric cars by 2015, a number almost as large as its current fleet of 30,000 conventional gasoline-powered cars. GE antic-

ipates savings from fuel economy and overnight charging.

Dual savings help explain why Dennis Beal, the vice president of global vehicles for FedEx Corp., recently said that 30 percent of his company's fleet could be electric if batteries with a 100-mile range became commonplace.

Much of the early shift to electric vehicles has come from companies that make deliveries, provide ser-

range of equipment providers. Utilities, carmakers and equipment providers now are working out a standard communication protocol for electric cars to communicate with power grids. This would be key in advancing a smart grid.

What'll become of the corner Exxon or Shell station?

The first wave of car-charging stations is likely to involve the



MCT

Mark Pastrone vice president of business development for SemaConnect in Annapolis, Maryland, plugs one of his company's electric car chargers into a Toyota Prius plug-in hybrid vehicle in Westminster, Maryland.

vices or operate at airports.

"People tend to focus on the light-duty (cars) segment ... and they don't understand the off-road piece," said Genevieve Cullen, the vice president of the Electric Drive Transportation Association, an advocacy group for electric cars. "A small increase in efficiency translates into huge oil savings."

Carmakers and manufacturers of electric-car chargers already have agreed on a common plug that'll work across the wide

owners of buildings, and national retail chains that install car-charging operations for some small economic or marketing gain. Once a critical mass is reached in production and sales of electric cars, advocates said, the market could build out quickly.

"At some point, you will have these well-capitalized people that come in and who say, 'We want to be the Exxon of charging infrastructure.' And they will buy electricity in bulk from the utilities,

and they will pony up the money to actually plant infrastructure on the ground, sign up customers," said Mahi Reddy, the CEO of SemaConnect, a company in Annapolis, Md., that's making electric car chargers.

Reddy calls these companies charging infrastructure network operators, and expects them to provide "smart cards" similar to building ID badges or transit-system electronic-fare cards. When motorists pull into charging stations, they'll swipe the cards to pay, much like using credit cards.

"Electricity has infrastructure that is already ubiquitous," Reddy said. Power lines and power distribution are already in place, making the transition far cheaper than for competing technologies.

"It is orders of magnitude cheaper than, say, installing hydrogen infrastructure or an ethanol infrastructure," he said.

Electric cars aren't expected to overburden the utilities that are developing the smart grid.

"There is so much excess capacity that there are not near- or mid-term challenges. Where we think there is going to be some issue, and it will vary across the country, is really the last 50 feet," said Kjaer of Southern Cal Edison, referring to the connections from homes to the neighborhood transformer.

Sherif Marakby, the director of electric-vehicle programs for Ford Motor Co., shares that view.

"How many electric vehicles can you charge on the same transformer in a subdivision? It seems like it's pretty doable to a large extent ... as long as the trend is to charge at the low points overnight," he said.

Automatic windshield wipers can frustrate drivers

By BRAD BERGHOOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I drove a rental car this past week that had automatic windshield wipers. I didn't realize this at first and thought the intermittent wipers were acting crazy, but figured out they were sweeping the windshield automatically. How do they do this? Is this on all new cars? Can I update my car to do this?—Paulette Sacco

ANSWER: This is a controversial subject as folks seem to either love or hate this feature. Rain-sensing wipers have been around, more so on luxury vehicles, for about 15 years, and have recently trickled down to mainstream cars and light trucks.

The most common approach for detecting rain is to use an optical sensor, which is mounted to the inside of the windshield near the rear view mirror. The sensor

projects infrared light into the windshield at a 45 degree angle. If the glass is dry, most of the light is reflected back to a sensor right next to the emitter. When rain droplets form on the windshield, the projected light becomes scattered, and less is reflected back to the sensor. Complaints of odd windshield wiper performance or improvements in sweep frequency can be traced to waxes, car wash rinse chemicals or windshield treatments applied to the glass that change the typical formation of droplets. If undesirable sweeping occurs, try cleaning the outside area of the windshield adjacent to the sensor with rubbing alcohol or something similar to restore normal droplet size.

Sensing rain is one part of the system. The other is skillful interpretation of the sensor information and human-friendly wiper execution. Getting used to the control methods can take some practice

ers were trying to be helpful before I bought into the well-executed system. I also wondered if an after-market kit might be available for my lower-tech vehicles at home. I found a product, Rain Tracker, that impressed me enough to order one. The unit runs \$90 and also contains an auto-headlight feature. Hydreon, the maker, promises simple DIY installation information but cautions the auto headlight hookup is best left to a pro. I'll try out both features and report back with the results.

Windshield wipers have come a long way since the first wiper, patented by Mary Anderson, began service in 1903.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life & Style

Brand doubles up as 'Hop,' 'Arthur' lead weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The good news for Russell Brand is that his animated comedy "Hop" remains the top movie for the second-straight weekend with \$21.7 million.

The bad news is that his new live-action comedy "Arthur" could not jump as high as "Hop."

The Warner Bros. remake of Dudley Moore's 1981 romance about a rich, drunken man-child finally learning to grow up, "Arthur" was a distant second with a modest debut of \$12.6 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Opening close behind at No. 3 with \$12.3 million was Focus Features' "Hanna," the tale of a teenager trained as a killing ma-

chine that stars Cate Blanchett, Eric Bana and Saoirse Ronan.

Sony's "Soul Surfer" debuted at No. 4 with \$11.1 million. The movie features Anna Sophia Robb in the real-life story of a surfer struggling toward a comeback after losing an arm in a shark attack.

The weekend's other new wide release, Universal's medieval action comedy "Your Highness," opened at No. 6 with \$9.5 million, weak results given a cast that includes James Franco and Natalie Portman.

With a solid second weekend, Brand's Easter bunny tale "Hop" raised its 10-day total to \$68.2 million. With Easter two weeks away, the Universal re-

lease still has room to roam at the box office.

"I'm so thrilled that we're so far ahead of the pack," said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution at Universal.

The poor results for "Your Highness" dimmed the mood at the studio, which had hoped more young males would turn out for the tale starring Franco, Portman and Danny McBride in a blend of supernatural action and frat-boy raunchiness.

"It was a risky concept. It was a very outrageous movie," Rocco said. "I wish more of the male audience had turned out. We always want it better, but it's not a total disaster."

Warner Bros. also had hoped

for more out of "Arthur," whose revenues came in on the low side of the studio's expectations.

According to the studio's exit surveys, younger crowds liked "Arthur" much better than those over 50, who likely were comparing it unfavorably to Moore's beloved original version.

"Younger people that went in who probably weren't around to see the original came in with a fresh approach," said Dan Fellman, Warner's head of distribution. "We really have to maintain the campaign to keep it young and keep rolling into the spring holidays."

"Hanna" and "Soul Surfer" were drastically different portraits of young women, the former a tale of a girl raised to kill, the latter an inspirational drama of a competitor fighting back against the odds.

Both movies found solid audiences amid another weekend of declining business for Hollywood, whose revenues are down 20.5 percent so far this year compared to 2010's.

Despite the slowdown, "Soul Surfer" managed to come in a bit ahead of the studio's expectations for the weekend.

"It's a movie that people love. It's prevailing over adversity in a really big way, and a movie with tremendous heart," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution at Sony.

Revenues have been down virtually every weekend since last November, a prolonged decline that has left Hollywood



AP

In this film publicity image released by Universal Pictures, E.B., the teenage son of the Easter Bunny, voiced by Russell Brand, is shown in a scene from "Hop."

1. **"Hop,"** \$21.7 million.
2. **"Arthur,"** \$12.6 million.
3. **"Hanna,"** \$12.3 million.
4. **"Soul Surfer,"** \$11.1 million.
5. **"Insidious,"** \$9.7 million.
6. **"Your Highness,"** \$9.5 million.
7. **"Source Code,"** \$9.1 million.
8. **"Limitless,"** \$5.7 million.
9. **"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules,"** \$4.9 million.
10. **"The Lincoln Lawyer,"** \$4.6 million.

looking toward the blockbuster-packed summer season to turn things around.

Last year, Hollywood started strongly then saw business fade over the summer and through the holidays. This year, analysts say the opposite may happen, with a strong summer and holiday lineup potentially putting Hollywood back in the black.

"We're a month from the start of the summer movie season, and that's a big deal," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "We need summer now more than ever to get us out of the box-office doldrums."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

British royal wedding guest list details emerge

LONDON (AP)—Soccer star

David Beckham will be there with his pop star wife Victoria. Elton John is attending with partner David Furnish. And the Venerable Bogoda Seelawimala will be there too, probably one of the few guests at the wedding of the year wearing orange and burgundy Buddhist robes.

The guest list for the April 29 union of Prince William and Kate Middleton is still being kept secret, but details have begun to leak out, with some coming forward to say they are attending and the Mail on Sunday newspaper claiming to have the official invitation roster.

The palace dismissed the newspaper's list as speculation Sunday.

It won't be clear until the day how the royal couple has balanced the protocol demands that they invite statesmen, diplomats, religious leaders, politicians and the like with invitations to the people they really want to see, particularly the crowd they made friends with when they met and fell in love at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

Kate Reardon, editor of high-society magazine Tatler, said many prominent Britons acted as if they didn't really care about

receiving an invitation while secretly checking the mail every day to see if the coveted emboosed invite had arrived.

"Everyone's been hoping," she said.

The Mail on Sunday list describes an eclectic mix—everyone from fabulously wealthy friends of Prince Charles to a favored bartender and a yoga instructor from the Caribbean island of Mustique, long a hideaway for royals and rockers alike.

William and Middleton have showed their modern side by inviting a number of close friends, including some former sweethearts, the newspaper said.

The wedding is not technically a state event, which somewhat limits the protocol requirements applied to the guest list. But royal obligations still dictate that a large number of the 1,900 or so seats go to guests from the world of politics, not actual friends of the couple.

The couple have also invited many guests from the charities they work with, and Middleton has used her influence to invite the butcher, shopkeeper and pub owner from her home village of Bucklebury.

Some guests, like leading religious figures, have to be invited

because of the magnitude of the event, even if they don't actually have a friendship with the royal family. Seelawimala, for example, has never met the couple, though he certainly hopes to when the big day comes.

The head priest at the London Buddhist Vihara monastery has been invited primarily to show the royal family and the British government's respect for Buddhist tradition.

"I'm very excited and a little bit nervous to take part in such a joyous occasion," Seelawimala said. "I would like to meet them, but I know they may not have a chance to meet all of their guests."

He does not plan to wear a business suit or tails, favoring instead his traditional religious robes, which are accepted, as are military uniforms.

Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks also plans to attend, his office said, along with other religious figures. It is expected that the list will include Islamic and Hindu leaders as well as those from other faiths.

Guest lists have a way of expanding. Prime Minister David Cameron, has been invited, of course—so it would have been bad form not to invite Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

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Arthur

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:45
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10
Russell Brand, Jennifer Garner
Comedy • Rated PG 13



Your Highness

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30
James Franco, Natalie Portman
Comedy • Rated R



Hanna

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett
Thriller • Rated PG 13



Hop

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
James Marsden, Russell Brand
Children's/Family • Rated PG



Sucker Punch

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25
Emily Browning, Abbie Cornish
Action, Fantasy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Arthur is a sweet but wildly irresponsible playboy whose millions have left him lonely and with no motivation in life. On the threshold of an arranged marriage with a simpering socialite whom he does not love, Arthur meets the spunky, blue-collar waitress Linda Marolla, and falls head over heels. However, just as he begins to pursue a relationship with Linda, his father and iron-willed grandmother threaten to pull the plug on his huge inheritance if he doesn't honor his position in life and go through with his marriage.

Synopsis

Pineapple Express' Danny McBride and James Franco re-team for a fantasy comedy sending up such '80s gems as *Krull* and *The Sword and the Sorcerer* with this Universal Pictures production from director David Gordon Green. McBride and frequent collaborator Ben Best provide the screenplay, which follows two princes as they head out on a journey to save their kingdom. Zooey Deschanel and Natalie Portman co-star as a pair of princesses, with Justin Theroux tackling the villainous role of Leezar.

Synopsis

Hanna stars Academy Award nominee Saoirse Ronan, Academy Award winner Cate Blanchett, and Eric Bana. Hanna (Ms. Ronan) is a teenage girl. Uniquely, she has the strength, the stamina, and the smarts of a soldier; these come from being raised by her father (Mr. Bana), an ex-CIA man, in the wilds of Finland. Living a life unlike any other teenager, her upbringing and training have been one and the same, all geared to making her the perfect assassin.

Synopsis

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan
Science fiction, Thriller • Rated PG 13



Source Code

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's, Family • Rated PG 13



Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Zachary Gordon, Devon Bostick
Children's, Family • Rated PG 13

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Steve Jobs authorized biography coming in 2012



Kristin Chenoweth arrives to The 22nd Annual GLAAD Media Awards on Sunday April 10, 2011, at The Westin Bonaventure in Los Angeles.

'Glee,' 'Modern Family' among GLAAD award winners

LOS ANGELES (AP)—“Glee,” “Modern Family” and “Project Runway” are winners of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation’s 22nd annual Media Awards.

Prizes for outstanding comedy series and reality program were among those presented in Los Angeles Sunday. Actor Sean Hayes presented entertainer Kristen Chenoweth with the Vanguard Award. “Fort Worth

Speech” on “The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell” was recognized as the year’s outstanding TV journalism segment.

The GLAAD Media Awards honor media for accurate and inclusive representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities and the issues affecting their lives.

Winners were announced in 25 of this year’s total of 32 media categories last month.

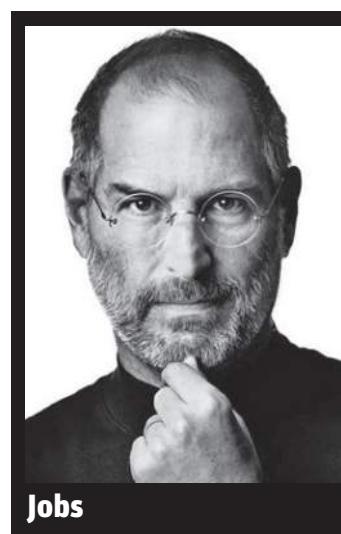
NEW YORK (AP)—Apple CEO Steve Jobs has finally agreed to participate in a book about his life.

Simon & Schuster announced Sunday that Walter Isaacson’s “Steve: The Book of Jobs” will be published in early 2012. Isaacson has been working on the long-ruled biography since 2009 and has interviewed Jobs, members of his family, colleagues at Apple and competitors.

Spokeswoman Tracey Guest of Simon & Schuster said no further details were available and that neither Jobs nor Isaacson would be commenting.

Many Jobs biographies have been written, but not with his authorization. He reacted to at least one book with active disapproval. In 2005, Apple banished works by John Wiley & Sons from its stores because the publisher had signed up an unauthorized biography, “iCon: Steve Jobs, The Greatest Second Act in the History of Business,” by Jeffrey S. Young and William L. Simon.

Few biographers are better connected than Isaacson, a former top executive at CNN and Time magazine who has written best-sellers about Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein. He is currently the president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a “nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute” in Washington, D.C.



Jobs

“This is the perfect match of subject and author, and it is certain to be a landmark book about one of the world’s greatest innovators,” Jonathan Karp, publisher of Simon & Schuster, said in a statement. “Just as he did with Einstein and Benjamin Franklin, Walter Isaacson is telling a unique story of revolutionary genius.”

Jobs, 56, has had numerous health problems and announced in January that he would take his third leave of absence in seven years. During that time, he has survived a rare but curable form of pancreatic cancer and undergone a liver transplant. He appeared at a press conference in early March to announce the iPad 2.

Bob Dylan rocks Vietnam in special concert

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP)—After nearly five decades of singing about a war that continues to haunt a generation of Americans, legendary performer Bob Dylan finally got his chance to see Vietnam at peace.

The American folk singer and songwriter known for his anti-war anthems gave a special concert Sunday in the former Saigon, nearly 36 years after the Vietnam War ended.

Dylan, 69, jammed on stage in a black jacket, purple shirt and white hat in the warm evening air, singing favorites such as “A Hard Rain’s a-Gonna Fall” and “Highway 61 Revisited.”

Only about half of the 8,000 seats at RMIT University were sold to a mix of Vietnamese and foreigners who danced on the grass as Dylan played guitar, harmonica and the keyboard. With more than 60 percent of the country’s 86 million people born after the war, many young people here are more familiar with contemporary pop stars like Justin Bieber.

Still, Dylan’s music during the tumultuous 1960s touched thousands of people in both nations.

“Bob Dylan’s music opened up a path where music was used as a weapon to oppose the war in Vietnam” and fight injustice and racism, said Tran Long An, 67, vice president of the Vietnam Composers’ Association. “That was the big thing that he has done for music.”

An was a student in Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City, during the war and took to the streets with other Communist sympathizers calling for the killing to stop. He remains a



In this handout photo released by Saigon Sound System, US musician Bob Dylan, right, performs with his band in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam Sunday, April 10, 2011.

big Dylan fan and has a large collection of the singer’s records.

For some who were fighting in Vietnam’s jungles, Dylan’s music was a source of hope.

“We listened to anything that spoke of peace. We called him the peace poet,” said Stan Karber, 60, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, who served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1971 and has lived in Ho Chi Minh City for the past 15 years. “I’ll be dancing here in a minute.”

The fighting ended on April 30, 1975, when northern Communist forces seized the U.S.-backed capital of South Vietnam, reunifying the country. About 58,000 Americans were killed along with some 3 million Vietnamese.

Sunday’s concert followed the 10th anniversary of the death of an-

ti-war Vietnamese folk singer Trinh Cong Son, known as the “Bob Dylan of Vietnam.” The opening Vietnamese acts played a tribute to Son, who remains highly popular.

Dylan is one of the top foreign artists to perform in Vietnam, where big-name concerts are still rare and the Communist government maintains strict controls over expression. Dylan’s song list had to be preapproved by the government, but promoter Rod Quinton, general manager of Ho Chi Minh City-based Saigon Sound System, said no restrictions were placed on the extensive set list submitted.

Dylan received criticism earlier this week following his first-ever shows in China for allowing the Communist government there to vet his song list. Two popular anti-

war songs, “The Times They Are a’Changin’” and “Blowin’ in the Wind,” were not performed at the Beijing and Shanghai shows, but it was unclear if they were submitted for consideration.

U.S.-based Human Rights Watch issued a statement saying, “Dylan should be ashamed of himself.”

“The young Dylan wouldn’t have let a government tell him what to sing,” Brad Adams, executive director of the organization’s Asia division, said in the statement. “He has a historic chance to communicate a message of freedom and hope, but instead he is allowing censors to choose his playlist.”

Dylan’s U.S. publicist referred questions to the promoters in Vietnam, who declined to comment.

Vietnam, while prospering as one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia, does not tolerate any challenge to its one-party rule. Rare protests are quickly quashed by security forces, and a spate of prominent pro-democracy activists have recently been arrested or given lengthy jail terms after calling for democracy. The government also routinely blocks access to websites considered a threat, including Facebook.

But the country, once defined by grainy images of U.S. planes dropping bombs over pockmarked jungles, has moved far beyond what Vietnamese here call the American War. Since the mid-1980s, Vietnam has embraced capitalism, and today’s Ho Chi Minh City is electric with a sea of motorbikes buzzing past shops selling everything from knockoff North Face backpacks to real Chanel bags.

Open minds are useful when discussing God with kids

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I would like to respond to “Agnostic Dad in South Carolina” (Feb. 16), who wondered about how to answer the inevitable “Is there a God?” question his children will ask. My parents had strong but differing Christian faiths. They compromised when bringing us up, and we went to the church nearest our home (another denomination). Further, when we were teens, they allowed us to “sample” other religious traditions to determine what would suit us best.

I became agnostic, and like “Dad in S.C.” was unsure what to tell my son. My husband and I do not belong to any organized religion and didn’t take him to church as a youngster. Instead, we introduced stories from the Bible at bedtime, and allowed him to attend his friends’ churches when he asked to. More important, we showed him that all people are to be valued and that differences are to be respected.

Our son is now in his late 20s. He’s a gentle, caring person with an interest in people from other cultures, religions and circumstances. Whether he is agnostic, religious or an atheist is a personal matter to him. He’s comfortable with his beliefs and doesn’t impose them on anyone else. As a parent, I couldn’t ask for more.

FREE-THINKING MOM IN WASHINGTON

DEAR MOM: Thank you for writing. Many readers were eager to offer guidance on this subject to a fellow parent. Read on:

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Despite eight years of Catholic education, I’m an atheist. My wife is a Lutheran. We’ve never argued about it because we feel everyone has a right to religious freedom. We have three sons, whom she took to church and Sunday school regularly with my complete support. We discussed in advance what our answer should be when the God question came up. Our response was: “Some people believe there is a God and others do not. You will get a sound religious education, and when the time comes, you will decide for yourself.”

Our sons are now adults with families. Two are religious; one is not. At family meals we join hands and say grace. Some recite it—some just listen—and everybody’s happy.

HARMONIOUS IN ILLINOIS

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: There is no problem for “Agnostic” and his wife to “handle.” If his children ask if there’s a God, he should model honesty for them and say what he thinks. So should his wife. If the kids get two different answers, they will learn that not everyone shares the same opinion. Suggesting that “Dad” not express his view plainly, without input from his wife, amounts to recommending that they collude in providing a dishonest answer.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN IOWA

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are agnostic parents of two adult children, both of whom are tolerant, open-minded and decent people. My advice to “Dad” is to read some of the excellent books that are available about discussing God and religion with children. He should also look into the Unitarian Universalist church, which does not push any one creed but encourages people to find their own beliefs in a supportive environment.

NANCY H. IN TEXAS

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Edward Buckingham
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE] CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0080
Calvin Barnhart] NOTICE OF HEARING

Hearing Date: April 26, 2011
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja

Please take notice that a hearing will be held in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Room 205, House of Justice, Beach Rd., Saipan, CNMI, at 1:30 p.m., on April 26, 2011, concerning the Probate of Wills and Petition for Letters of Administration for the Estate of Decedent Calvin Barnhart, signed on March 17, 2011.
Respectfully Submitted,

Dated this 17th day of March, 2011.

/s/ David Lochabay
David Lochabay, Bar No. F0305
Asst. Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Petitioner
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter] FCD-AD
of the Adoption] CIVIL ACTION NO.
of] 11-0105
AKIEKO JADE NIRO ATINISOM,] NOTICE OF HEARING
by MOLLIE]
NIRO ATINISOM,]
Petitioner,]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Mollie Niro Atinisom has filed a petition for the adoption of Akieko Jade Niro Atinisom, a minor child born on July 11, 2009; and that the said petition will be heard by the Court on Monday, May 09, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

DATED: April 06, 2011

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F-0122
Attorney for Petitioner



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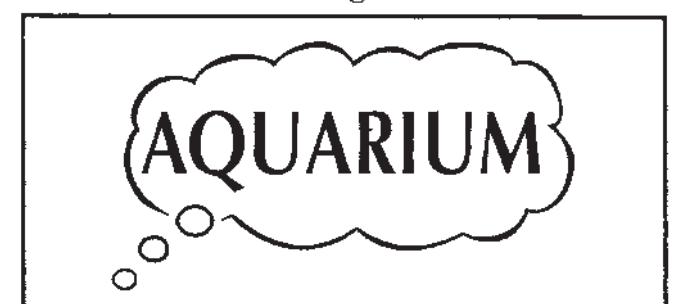
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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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James' 27 lift Miami past Boston, 100-77



MIAMI (AP)—If this was an Eastern Conference semifinals preview, then the Miami Heat and Boston Celtics showed what to expect.

Few pleasantries.

Pushing and shoving. And maybe a Game 7 in Miami. LeBron James scored 27 points, Dwyane Wade added 14 and the Heat moved closer to the No. 2 seed in the East playoffs Sunday by beating the sliding Celtics 100-77.

"It was a playoff-atmosphere type of game, from the fans to both teams' approach to what the game meant," Wade said. "It had that feel."

Miami moved a game ahead of Boston, trimming its magic number to clinch the second seed to two. The teams will finish second and third in some order behind Chicago in the East, slotted to play in the conference semifinals.

"We'd like to play them, I can tell you that," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "And we may have to if we want to go somewhere."

Chris Bosh added 13 points and eight rebounds for Miami, which had been 0-3 against Boston this season, though Heat coach Erik Spoelstra cautioned against overstating the win's importance.

"We proved we can beat them tonight," Spoelstra said. "That's about it, in my mind."

Paul Pierce scored 24 points and Kevin Garnett added 21 for Boston, which lost for the 10th time in its last 19 games. The Celtics were out-rebounded 42-26, and outscored 44-26 in the paint.

"What else do you expect? It's Boston-Miami," Garnett said. "Supposedly it's two of, if not the top two, teams in the East. You have to expect that. You have to expect that coming in here you're not going to get the call. You had to expect their passion—a team you have beaten three times."

The Heat finally solved the Boston hex, beating the Celtics for the third time in the last 21 meetings. Bosh had been 1-13 against Boston since March 2007, and the Celtics ended both the 2009-10 seasons for Wade (in the first round) and James (in the second round).

Miami won for the 13th time in its last 16 games, and its bench—maligned for much of the season—outscored Boston's 32-12.

"What worked for us today is, offensively we played together," Wade said.

Ray Allen scored 13 points for the Celtics. Rajon Rondo was held to just seven points and five assists on 3 for 8 shooting.

"Frustration is high on our team right now," Rivers said.

Miami's role players were huge.

Mario Chalmers had nine points in the second quarter, when the Heat took the lead. Joel Anthony had eight rebounds in the first half, two less than the entire Boston roster. Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored six quick points early in the third as the Heat remained in control, and Anthony took advantage of a triple-team on James for a dunk and a 74-59 lead on the final play of the third quarter.

Of course, this being Celtics-Heat, nothing would come easily for Miami.

Down by 22, Boston ran off 12 straight points, Allen starting it with a four-point play, and Pierce adding both a 3-pointer and a three-point play to get



Miami Heat's LeBron James, right, remonstrates with Boston Celtics' Jermaine O'Neal, left, after O'Neal fouled James during the second quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, April 10, 2011, in Miami.

the Celtics within 85-75.

It was the last gasp. Mike Bibby's 3-pointer with 4:49 left, followed by Bosh's follow of James' miss, sent the lead back to 15.

"We built that lead by just keeping guys in front of us, contesting shots and flying around defensively," James said.

Boston scored the game's first eight points and hit eight of its first nine shots. The Celtics were making it seem easy, especially when Garnett—who hadn't made a 3-pointer all season—stepped into one from the left wing and connected for a 22-15 lead.

"It looked like the same old song," Spoelstra said.

It didn't stay that way. Boston went scoreless for the next 6:17, and Miami took the lead for good on the opening possession of the second quarter.

Tensions were already high, and emotions soon boiled over.

Jermaine O'Neal—who had just been easily scored on by James 27 seconds earlier in transition—tried to stop another drive by the two-time reigning MVP with a shoulder check with about 4 minutes left in the second, making no play on the ball.

A scrum quickly broke out under the basket. O'Neal earned a flagrant-1, James got a technical for throwing the ball back at O'Neal, Wade and Pierce also got technicals for some pushing and jostling, and a small amount of debris flew from the stands onto the court.

"I thought it was all theatrical, all the crap. I guess that's called toughness these days," Rivers said. "Two guys run into each other, we've got to call a flagrant foul, which I thought was a joke. And I thought the reactions by both were a joke."

Bosh earned another technical 2 1/2 minutes later for arguing he tied up a loose ball with Rondo, only to have referees award Boston a timeout. But the Heat kept their composure, kept pouring it on after halftime, then turned

their eyes toward road games that loom large at Atlanta on Monday and Toronto on Wednesday.

"This is cool and all," Bosh said, "but we still have two more games."

Thunder 120, Lakers 106

At Los Angeles, Kevin Durant scored 31 points, Russell Westbrook added 26 and Oklahoma City sent Los Angeles to its fifth straight loss.

James Harden added 16 points and Serge Ibaka 15 for the Thunder, who moved a game behind the Lakers and Dallas with two remaining in the race for the No. 2 seed in the West. It was the Thunder's fourth straight win and their first against the Lakers on the road since March 12, 2006.

Kobe Bryant scored 31 points, Pau Gasol added 26 and Andrew Bynum had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who led by five early in the fourth and by one with 3:10 to go, only to see the Thunder close on a 16-2 run.

The Lakers haven't lost this many in a row since 2006-07, when they dropped seven straight in the last season before Gasol joined the team.

Bulls 102, Magic 99

At Orlando, Fla., Derrick Rose had 39 points and five assists, and Luol Deng added 15 points to help Chicago hold off Orlando.

Orlando's Jameer Nelson appeared to tie it with a 3-pointer at the buzzer, but an official review upheld an initial call of no basket. Ryan Anderson led the Magic with a career-high 28 points, Jason Richardson added 24 and Nelson had 17.

Chicago won its seventh consecutive game and for the 19th time in 21 games. The Bulls also kept alive their chances of finishing with the NBA's best record, which would give them home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Magic fell to 1-3 this season without center Dwight Howard. He sat out Sunday, serving his second suspen-

sion of the season after picking up his 18th technical foul.

Grizzlies 111, Hornets 89

At Memphis, Tenn., O.J. Mayo scored 18 points, Marc Gasol added 16 and Memphis continued its march to the postseason by beating New Orleans.

Hornets All-Star guard Chris Paul was held scoreless for the first time in his career, missing all six of his field goal attempts. An 88-percent free throw shooter, Paul went to the line once and missed both shots. He did have 10 assists.

Both teams already have clinched spots in the Western Conference playoffs but are now jockeying for seeding position. The victory pulled Memphis even with the Hornets for the seventh spot. The teams split the season series 2-2, but the Hornets own the second tiebreaker with a better record in the Southwest Division.

Marco Belinelli led the Hornets with 18 points.

Knicks 110, Pacers 109

At Indianapolis, Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points, making the go-ahead jumper with 4.9 seconds left and blocking a potential winning attempt, helping New York beat Indiana for its seventh straight win.

Chauncey Billups had 21 points and seven assists, and Toney Douglas scored 14 for the Knicks (42-38), who moved a game ahead of idle Philadelphia for the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

Knicks forward Amare Stoudemire missed his second straight game with a sprained left ankle. Coach Mike D'Antoni said he could return Tuesday against Chicago.

Danny Granger had 20 points and Roy Hibbert added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana (37-44). The Pacers are locked into the No. 8 seed and will play Chicago in the opening round of the playoffs.

Mavericks 115, Suns 90

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki and Shawn Marion led Dallas over Phoenix, keeping alive hopes of snagging the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference.

Nowitzki had 19 points, and Marion had 18 points and 11 rebounds. Each played only 28 minutes, which should help keep them fresh for the final two games—at Houston on Monday night and at home against New Orleans on Wednesday.

Marcin Gortat had 15 points and 11 rebounds for Phoenix, which lost its second straight and fourth in five games. It also was the 42nd loss of the season for the Suns, clinching their first losing record since 2003-04, their last season before bringing Steve Nash back from the Mavericks.

Pistons 112, Bobcats 101

At Charlotte, N.C., Rodney Stuckey scored 24 points, fellow reserve Charlie Villanueva added 20 and Detroit recovered from a terrible start to beat reeling Charlotte and snap an 11-game road losing streak.

Chris Wilcox chipped in with 14 points for the Pistons, who shot 56 percent from the field in their third straight win and second in three days since California investor Tom Gores reached a deal to buy the team.

Hours after coach John Kuester said he hopes to return for the last year of his contract, the Pistons overcame a 15-point, first-quarter deficit for their first road victory since Feb. 9 at Cleveland.

Gerald Henderson scored 21 points, Boris Diaw added 16 of his 20 points in the first quarter and Kwame Brown had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Bobcats, who have dropped six straight.

Raptors 99, Nets 92

At Toronto, Jerryd Bayless scored 19 points, James Johnson had a season-high 18 and Toronto beat New Jersey, snapping a three-game losing streak.

DeMar DeRozan and Ed Davis both scored 18 points and Julian Wright had 10 for the Raptors, who had to hold on after leading by as many as 21.

Reggie Evans had 15 rebounds for Toronto, which had lost nine of 10.

Brook Lopez had 35 points and 11 rebounds for the Nets, who have lost three straight and nine of 11. Sasha Vujacic, who scored 19, was the only other Nets player to reach double figures.

Kings 104, Warriors 103

At Oakland, Calif., Marcus Thornton scored 21 points and made several big shots late to lead Sacramento over Golden State.

Thornton's jumper with 12.6 seconds remaining put the Kings ahead by four and sealed the victory, snapping Sacramento's two-game losing streak. The teams split the season series 2-2.

DeMarcus Cousins added 15 points and 13 rebounds, and Tyreke Evans and Jason Thompson each scored 14 points for the Kings, who overcame an eight-point deficit late in the fourth quarter.

Stephen Curry had 27 points and eight assists, and David Lee finished with 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Warriors, who had won three straight. Monta Ellis left in the final minutes with a head injury and did not return.

Red Sox beat Yankees 4-0 to win series



BOSTON (AP)—Josh Beckett allowed two hits in eight shut-out innings to help the Boston Red Sox beat the New York Yankees 4-0 in the American League on Sunday to take two out of three games from their rivals in the series.

Beckett (1-1) was dropped to fourth in the season-opening rotation but struck out 10 and walked one while retiring the last 14 batters he faced.

The Red Sox returned home after losing their first six games of the season—their worst start since 1945. They ended that streak by beating the Yankees 9-6 on Friday before losing 9-4 on Saturday.

Dustin Pedroia reached base all five times he went to bat with three singles, an intentional walk and a force play. Mike Cameron had a run-scoring single, David Ortiz doubled home a run and Marco Scutaro had a two-run double for Boston.

Athletics 5, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Japanese star Hideki Matsui hit a home run and Brandon McCarthy pitched into the eighth inning to lead Oakland over Minnesota.

McCarthy (1-0) allowed two runs and nine hits with five strikeouts in 7 1-3 innings for the A's, who took two of three against the Twins.

Justin Morneau had three hits and an RBI and Jim Thome hit his first homer of the season for the Twins.

Scott Baker (0-2) gave up four runs and seven hits in five innings.

Angels 3, Blue Jays 1

In Anaheim, California, Jered Weaver struck out a career-high 15 batters to lift Los Angeles past Toronto.

Weaver allowed four hits in 7 2-3 innings and Peter Bourjos tripled home a pair of unearned runs to help the Angels take two of three in the series.

Weaver became the first Angels pitcher with 15 strikeouts in a game since May 23, 1995, when left-hander Chuck Finley fanned 15 Yankees.

Jo Jo Reyes (0-1) gave up three runs and six hits in seven innings.

Indians 6, Mariners 4

In Seattle, Asdrubal Cabrera hit a solo homer to help surprising Cleveland beat Seattle for its seventh straight win.

Cleveland completed an impressive three-game sweep of the struggling Mariners and is off to a 7-2 start for the first time since beginning the 2002 season 8-1.

Cabrera had three hits off Erik Bedard (0-2), who was making his first home start since July 2009. The left-

hander also gave up a homer to Jack Hannahan in the fourth, and doubles to Michael Brantley, Lou Marson and Orlando Cabrera.

Bedard lasted just four innings as Seattle dropped its seventh straight.

Indians starter Josh Tomlin (2-0) allowed three hits and three runs in 6 2-3 strong innings.

Rangers 3, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, Adrian Beltre and Ian Kinsler both homered as Texas topped Baltimore to win its third straight series.

The Rangers took two of three from the Orioles and improved to 8-1, matching the best start in team history.

Derek Holland (2-0) allowed five hits over six innings, striking out six and walking two. Neftali Feliz got four outs for his third save.

Jeremy Guthrie (1-1) allowed one run and four hits in six innings in his first start since opening day.

Royals 9, Tigers 5

At Detroit, Wilson Betemit went 4 for 4 with two doubles as Kansas City beat the mistake-prone Detroit Tigers.

Luke Hochevar (1-1) pitched seven solid innings, and every Royals starter had a hit.

Miguel Cabrera, Jhonny Peralta and Alex Avila all homered for Detroit, but the Tigers made four errors.

Rick Porcello (0-2) allowed five runs on nine hits in five innings.

It was the first four-hit game for Betemit since July 2007.

White Sox 6, Rays 1

In Chicago, Paul Konerko hit two home runs and Gavin Floyd pitched eight solid innings as Chicago beat slumping Tampa Bay.

Konerko's solo shots in the first and fifth gave him three home runs this season. He has a 10-game hitting streak dating to last year and has driven in a run in all but one game for Chicago this year.

Gordon Beckham also homered in the first inning for the White Sox.

The Rays fell to 1-8, their worst start in team history. Tampa Bay has just scored 11 runs in its eight losses.

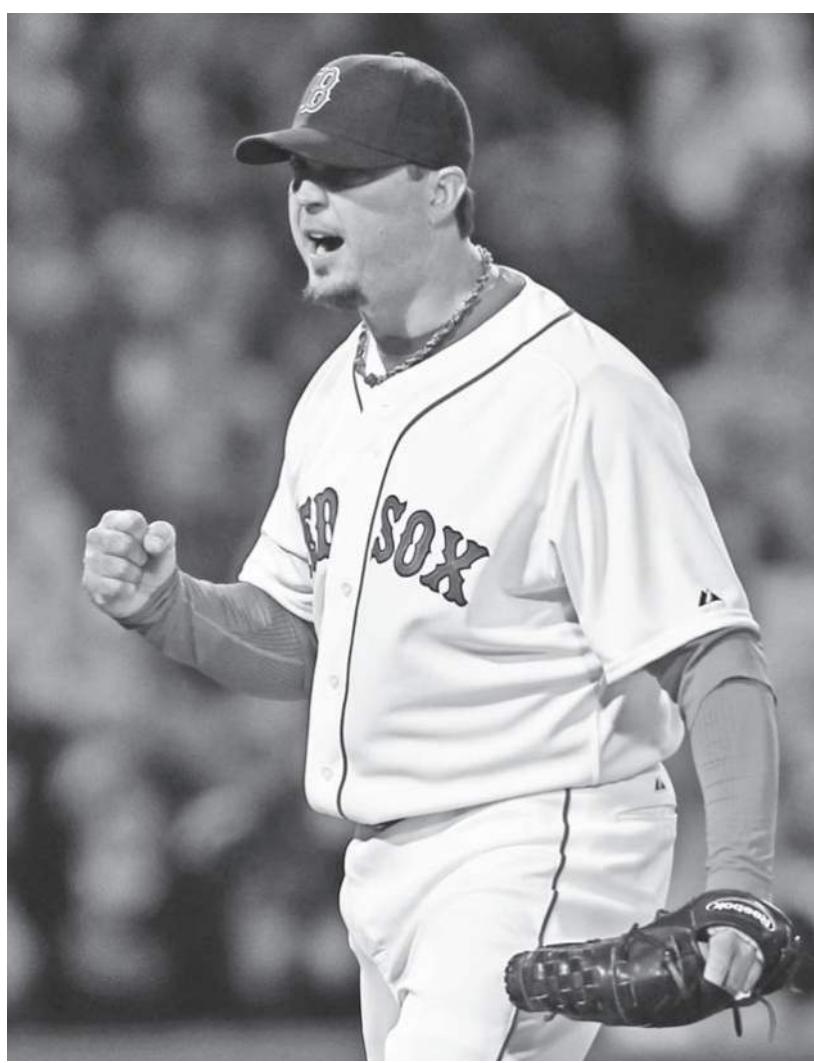
Floyd (1-0) struck out eight, allowing just four hits.

Jeff Niemann (0-2) allowed five runs and five hits in 2 2-3 innings.

Phillies 3, Braves 0

At Atlanta, Cole Hamels combined with two relievers on a five-hitter and Shane Victorino capped a big series with three hits to lead the Philadelphia Phillies past the Atlanta Braves.

Hamels (1-1) gave up four hits with



3-for-22 slump this homestand and didn't get the start.

Chicago's Aramis Ramirez drove in three runs on three doubles, but the bullpen couldn't hold on.

Kameron Loe (1-0) got the win despite giving up an RBI groundout.

Rockies 6, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, Seth Smith drew a bases-loaded walk in the seventh inning as Colorado beat Pittsburgh for its third win in its last four games on the road.

Smith, who had an RBI single in Colorado's four-run first, drew his two-out walk from Mike Crotta (0-1).

Jose Lopez hit a three-run homer in the first for the Rockies, who ended last season by dropping their last eight road games.

Jhoulys Chacin (2-0) allowed four earned runs and seven hits in six innings. Colorado's starters are 5-0 this season.

Astros 7, Marlins 1

At Houston, pitcher J.A. Happ allowed four hits in 7 2-3 innings and drove in two runs for Houston.

Hunter Pence, Carlos Lee and Matt Downs also batted in runs for the Astros, who finished with a season-high 16 hits.

Happ (1-1) allowed only two hits after the Marlins took a 1-0 lead in the first inning. He put Houston ahead to stay in the fourth with a two-run double off Anibal Sanchez (0-1), who gave up six runs on 13 hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Nationals 7, Mets 3, 11 innings

In New York, Ivan Rodriguez hit the tie-breaking RBI single and Laynce Nix followed with a three-run homer in the 11th inning as Washington rallied to beat the Mets.

Drew Storen (1-1) pitched a scoreless 10th for Washington to get the win.

The Mets wasted another fine start by Chris Young, who allowed one run and one hit in seven innings. Blaine Boyer (0-2), the Mets' fifth reliever, picked up the loss after giving up the four runs in the 11th.

Padres 7, Dodgers 2

At San Diego, Ryan Ludwick hit the go-ahead homer and Aaron Harang pitched six sharp innings to lift the Padres.

Nick Hundley added a two-run home-run and Cameron Maybin had a solo shot and an RBI triple as San Diego avoided a three-game sweep.

Ludwick was 2 for 23 this year before he connected off John Ely (0-1) in the fourth inning.

Harang (2-0) allowed two runs on three hits.

one walk and eight strikeouts in seven innings to beat Derek Lowe (1-2), who allowed seven hits and two runs in seven innings.

Victorino had nine hits in the series with the Braves, including his first homer on Sunday.

Ryan Madson pitched the eighth and Jose Contreras worked a perfect ninth for his second save.

Cardinals 6, Giants 1

At San Francisco, David Freese hit a homer and three RBIs and Kyle Lohse allowed one run in eight innings to help St. Louis end a three-game losing streak.

Matt Holliday scored the go-ahead run and added an RBI single in his first game since having an appendectomy April 1.

Skip Schumaker added a two-run double to help the Cardinals win for just the third time in nine games this season.

Lohse (1-1) allowed five hits, and Trevor Miller pitched a scoreless ninth.

The Giants failed to complete their first three-game sweep of the Cardinals since 2001.

Diamondbacks 10, Reds 8

In Phoenix, Chris Young hit the decisive three-run homer and Stephen Drew had four hits and three RBIs as Arizona rallied twice to beat Cincinnati.

Drew's RBI single tied it at 7 in the eighth inning before Young drove a 3-2 pitch from Nick Masset (0-2) into the seats to put Arizona ahead for only the second time all day.

The Reds led 5-0 after 2 1/2 innings before Arizona scored five in the fifth off Mike Leake, the last three on Ryan Roberts' homer, to go up 6-5.

Jonny Gomes' two-run homer off Aaron Heilman in the seventh put Cincinnati back on top 7-6.

Heilman (1-0) allowed two runs in three innings to get the win.

Brewers 6, Cubs 5

At Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Casey McGehee delivered a two-run homer with two outs in the eighth inning as Milwaukee beat the Chicago Cubs.

Prince Fielder and Ryan Braun each hit a two-run homer for Milwaukee, which has won five of six after an 0-4 start.

McGehee had been mired in a

Lawyers for NFL, players talk mediation with judge

confirmed the call took place and said Nelson wanted details to remain private. Jeffrey Kessler, a lawyer for the players, declined to comment.

The most notable development Friday was the formal addition of DeMaurice Smith as an attorney for the players. Smith is the executive director of the NFL Players Association, which is now officially a trade association and not a union. Lawyers who practice in a different state must file for approval through the court.

Attorneys for the NFL and the players held a conference call Friday to discuss mediation with U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who is currently deciding whether to lift the lockout.

He also said the federal mediator has a 16-day "head start" on the issues.

Barbara Berens, a lawyer for the players, spelled out support of Nelson's offer to supervise.

"We think this is an excellent suggestion and are prepared to engage in such mediation without delay," Berens wrote.

The players voted to dissolve the union and filed an antitrust lawsuit against the league last month, and owners declared a lockout. The players say the lockout is illegal, and the owners say the decertification of the union was a negotiating ploy.

No fresh talks have occurred since the expiration of the previous CBA on March 11.

Lawyers for NFL, players talk mediation with judge

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—The locked-out NFL players don't want to go back to collective bargaining with the league. They have now made a move to allow their former union boss to be present if court-supervised talks take place between the two sides.

Attorneys for the NFL and the players held a conference call Friday to discuss mediation with U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson, who is currently deciding whether to lift the lockout.

League spokesman Greg Aiello

confirmed the call took place and said Nelson wanted details to remain private. Jeffrey Kessler, a lawyer for the players, declined to comment.

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SCHWARTZEL

From Page 28

had someone lost at least a four-shot lead going into the last round of the major.

"It's never nice to be leading a tournament and do what I did today," McIlroy said.

On the course he looked as though he wanted to hide. After the round, he looked everyone in the eye and answered every question.

The steady hand came from Schwartzel, whose only bogey came on the fourth hole as this Masters was just getting warmed up. He made par on 10 consecutive holes when he began his great run.

Schwartzel got up-and-down from behind the 15th green for birdie to briefly tie for the lead, only for Scott to stuff his tee shot into 2 feet up ahead on the par-3 16th. Schwartzel answered with a 15-foot birdie to catch Scott atop the leaderboard again.

Then came the pivotal 17th, where Schwartzel took the lead, and he finished it off in style.

South Africans now have won two of the last three majors, following Louis Oosthuizen winning at St. Andrews last summer. This one came on the 50th anniversary of Gary Player becoming the first international player to win the Masters.

"I am absolutely delighted for Charl and South Africa. Congratulations and very well done to him. That is how you finish like a champion!" Player said on Twitter.

In so many respects, this looked more like 1986 when Jack Nicklaus charged on the back nine to win a sixth green jacket over a Hall of Fame cast of contenders. There were twice as many possibilities at this Masters, though, from Woods and former Masters champion Angel Cabrera, from Ogilvy and Donald, from K.J. Choi and Bo Van Pelt, who made two eagles on the back nine.

Schwartzel set the tone early when

he chipped in from some 75 feet across the green for birdie on the opening hole, then holed out from the fairway on No. 3 for eagle. Just like that, McIlroy's four-shot lead was gone.

The cheers were impossible for McIlroy to ignore.

From the second green, where he was scrambling to make par, McIlroy could hear the noise ahead of him for Schwartzel's eagles. Moments later came another roar to his right on the seventh green, where Woods stuffed one close for another birdie.

Woods' red shirt looked a little brighter. He walked a little taller. And the cheers kept coming.

The biggest boom from the gallery came on the par-5 eighth, when Woods knocked in an eagle putt to reach 10 under and tie for the lead. There was no mistaking that sound, or who it was for.

Over the next few minutes, more cheers could be heard from all corners of Augusta each time Woods' score was posted on a leaderboard. He still had the back nine to play, and momentum was on his side.

Not for long, though.

He missed a 3-foot par putt on the 12th, failed to birdie the par-5 13th with a 7-iron for his second shot. Then, after twirling his 7-iron with a shot so pure it settled 4 feet away on the par-5 15th, he missed the 4-foot eagle putt.

Woods closed with a 67, his best final round ever here. But he shot a 36 on the back nine, and that doesn't win the Masters, certainly not this one.

"I got off to a nice start there and posted 31," he said. "And then on the back nine, could have capitalized some more."

Which shot would he like to have back?

"Oh, we can't do that," Woods said. "We do that every week and we would go crazy, wouldn't we?"

Schwartzel finished at 14-under 274 and moves to No. 11 in the world, making him the No. 1 player in South Africa. He becomes the sixth South African to win a major.

only two sets to prevail over Marlene Peraja and Lani Bartolome, 21-13, 21-15. Anna Rose Omori and Michelle Caleon rounded out the Top 3.

In the men's B doubles finals, Gary Bandoja and Oh Imbog won over Diola and Narlo Achas, 21-17, 21-20, while Sam Jones and Glenn Buultjens finished third after defeating Saul Gargallo and John Revilla, 21-10, 14-21, 21-15.

The women's B doubles crown went to So Young Lee and Heo in Souk, who won by default over Christy Villaflor and Gigi Zapanta. Marylyn Montano and Jaja Samonte placed third after a 21-19, 17-21, 21-12 triumph over Shirley Kim and Merlie Tolentino.

In the mixed doubles division, Guintu and Choi claimed their second championship after thumping

Hara earlier fed Nami Onishi for the first goal in the game at the 14:23 mark of the opening half. More than a minute later, it was Hara's turn to find the back of the net after receiving a pass from captain Anna Sano.

By the end of the first half, Keio was ahead, 4-0, and the hosts failed to make headway, as they could not stop the visitors from controlling possession in the second half.

In the second half, Nakayama completed her hat-trick when she got her third goal in the 41st minute. Three

"It's been such a short time to think about what can happen. It's a dream for me," Schwartzel said. "It's obviously the highlight of my golf career, by a long way. I always thought if there was one I would win, it would be this one."

For Scott and Day, it was bitter disappointment for themselves and their country. The Masters is the only major an Australian has never won, and it has become a rallying cry for so many players who watched Norman endure years of heartache.

Scott, who switched to a long putter in February, took the lead for the first time with a short birdie on the 14th and had the look of a winner with his tee shot to tap-in range on the 16th, and a clutch par save from the bunker on the 17th.

He missed his 25-foot birdie putt on the final hole that he ran 4 feet by and settled for a 67.

"I don't think I can ask for anything more," Scott said. "I had a putt at it at the last - not my best, but everything else was pretty good today."

Day came to life at the end with consecutive birdies that allowed him to shoot 68 and join Scott at 12-under 276. He hugged his wife before going into the scoring hut, only to see Schwartzel play the 18th without any drama.

"I couldn't do anymore than what I just did today," Day said. "Charl played even better golf."

Woods tied for fourth at the Masters for the second straight year, joined by Ogilvy (67) and Luke Donald (69). Ogilvy ran off five consecutive birdies on the back nine - unforgettable at any other Masters but this one filled with so many highlights. Donald was in the mix until hitting 9-iron into Rae's Creek on the 12th for double bogey.

He rebounded beautifully, however, and showed his greatest emotion on the 18th. With an awkward lie near the bunker, he scooped a shot that hit the flag and bounced back off the green, and Donald chipped in for birdie.

Ultimately, though, it was Schwartzel slipping into a green jacket.

Galvez and Angie Ito in the Class A finals, 21-19, 21-16. Hapi Gabriel and Malou Malasarte placed third, following a 21-15, 11-21, 21-14 win over Gargallo and Peraja.

Hibi also secured his second title, as he teamed up with Lucelle Lampera in beating Noli Santos and Caleon in the mixed B doubles finals, 19-21, 21-19, 21-9. Father and daughter Jojo and Jen Savellano completed the Top 3 after edging Bandoja and Souk in the consolation game, 17-21, 21-19, 21-19.

The mixed C doubles finals went to three sets with Elna Curate and Luis Camacho slipping past Lee Chon Hee and Kimbo Ranah, 14-21, 21-17, 21-14. Yeol and Mweong won by forfeit over Jen Savellano and Rick Brien in the battle for third place.

minutes later, Mikako Arita lit up the scoreboard anew with her first and lone goal in the game.

Keio had a 15-player roster for the friendly match. Completing the team were Saki Taguchi, Shiori Kawasaki, Annu Nishioka, Urara Miyahara, Chihiro Yamashita, Yoko Yamamoto, Ami Ishihara, Atsushi Iwasaki, Shoji Usui, and manager Komaki Rimi.

The CNMI listed 21 players for the match. They were goalie Rebecca Schroeder, Melody Matson, Amber Roberts, Michiko Tenorio, Carrie Schuler,

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES**NBA STANDINGS****EASTERN CONFERENCE****Atlantic Division**

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	54	25	.684	-
New York	42	38	.525	12 1/2
Philadelphia	41	39	.513	13 1/2
New Jersey	24	55	.304	30
Toronto	22	58	.275	32 1/2

Southeast Division

Miami	56	24	.700	-
Orlando	50	30	.625	6
Atlanta	44	36	.550	12
Charlotte	32	48	.400	24
Washington	22	57	.278	33 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	59	20	.747	-
Indiana	37	44	.457	23
Milwaukee	33	46	.418	26
Detroit	28	51	.354	31
Cleveland	17	63	.213	42 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE**Southwest Division**

San Antonio	61	19	.763	-
Dallas	54	25	.684	6 1/2
New Orleans	46	34	.575	15
Memphis	45	34	.570	15 1/2
Houston	41	38	.519	19 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	54	26	.675	-
Denver	49	31	.613	5
Portland	47	33	.588	7
Utah	37	42	.468	16 1/2
Minnesota	17	63	.213	37

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	55	25	.688	-
Phoenix	38	42	.475	17
Golden State	35	45	.438	20
L.A. Clippers	31	49	.388	24
Sacramento	24	55	.304	30 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Chicago 102, Orlando 99
Miami 100, Boston 77
Toronto 99, New Jersey 92
Memphis 111, New Orleans 89
Detroit 112, Charlotte 101
New York 110, Indiana 109
Dallas 115, Phoenix 90
Sacramento 104, Golden State 103
Oklahoma City 120, L.A. Lakers 106

MLB STANDINGS**AMERICAN CONFERENCE****East Division**

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6th Annual Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Two swimmers sprint to the finish line during the 6th Annual Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim held in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club early this month.



Joshua Berger, left, gets a hi-five from Kento Akimaru after completing the race.



Andrew Kimball goes for the second lap of the five-lap race.



Kento Akimaru removes his goggles after completing the race.



Mieko Carey in her trademark smile at the finish line.



Butch Sublemente gets out of the water.



Suzy Kindel is all smiles after swimming with young participants in the shortest race of the day.



Race volunteer Cole Pritchard plays with young swimmers waiting for the start of the race.



Mamiko Oshima-Berger cools down after the one-kilometer race.



Taiyo Akimaru comes out of the water with his fins.



James' 27 lift Miami past Boston, 100-77

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Red Sox beat Yankees, 4-0 to win series

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Schwartzel wins Masters after wild day

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The finishing touch of a most amazing Masters was Charl Schwartzel slipping into a green jacket. Until that moment late Sunday afternoon, everything else at Augusta National was up for grabs.

The roars came from everywhere, for everyone, and never stopped.

Tiger Woods made up a seven-shot deficit in nine holes—too bad it was the front nine. Geoff Ogilvy ran off five straight birdies. Rory McIlroy matched the greatest collapse in Masters history with a stretch of holes not even Greg Norman would want to watch.

It was so wild that eight players had at least a share of the lead on the back nine.

Schwartzel emerged from all this madness with a magical touch of his own. He became



AP

Former champion Phil Mickelson, back, helps Charl Schwartzel of South Africa with his green Masters jacket after winning the Masters golf tournament Sunday, April 10, 2011, in Augusta, Ga.

the first Masters champion in its 75-year history to finish with four straight birdies, giving him a 6-under 66 for the best final round by a winner in 22 years.

The green jacket ceremony wasn't so much a celebration as a chance for everyone to

catch their breath.

"There's so many roars that go on around Augusta," Schwartzel said. "Especially the back nine. It echoes through those trees. There's always a roar. Every single hole you walk down, someone has done

something. And I'd be lying if I said I wasn't looking at the leaderboard."

At times, it was nearly impossible to keep up.

There was a five-way lead at the top at one point, and only the final hour sorted it all out.

Schwartzel didn't have the lead to himself until he knocked in a 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole, then put just the right touch on a memorable Sunday

with one final birdie putt that only counted toward the final margin.

He won by two shots over Adam Scott and Jason Day, a pair of Australians who didn't drop a single shot on the back nine.

"Just an exciting day," Schwartzel said. "So many roars, and that atmosphere out there was just incredible. A phenomenal day."

Indeed, this final round had it all.

There was the fist-pumping charge by Tiger Woods that was slowed by two putts he missed from inside 4 feet. There was Luke Donald, dumping his tee shot into the pond at No. 12 only to make four birdies over the last six holes, chipping in on the last one.

And then there was McIlroy, whose 80 in the final round might be remembered as much for the classy way he handled it all.

Still leading by one shot as he headed to the back nine, McIlroy hit a tee shot next to the cabins left of the 10th fairway and twice hit a tree to make triple bogey. He three-putted from 7 feet for bogey on the 11th, four-putted from about 12 feet on the next hole and buried his head into his forearm as the shock began to settle in.

McIlroy had the highest final round by a 54-hole leader since Ken Venturi in 1956. Not since Jean Van de Velde at Carnoustie

See SCHWARTZEL on Page 26

9 pairs clinch badminton titles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Nine teams were crowned champions, as the 2011 Tan Holdings Mixed/Doubles Badminton Competition concluded over the weekend at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.

First to notch the championship was the tandem of Windy Fernandez and Chris Obaldo, who topped Cecille Obaldo and Hazel dela Santa in the wom-

NMBA
Northern Marianas Badminton Association

en's C doubles finals on Saturday. The newly crowned champions swept their foes, 21-10, 21-11. Jen Savellano and Lyka Lanuza finished third, beating Hwang Meong and Angela Park in the consolation game, 21-19, 17-21, 21-17.

Also clinching the championship on Saturday was the duo of Father Charlie Borja and Je-

See **9 PAIRS** on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jerome Malasarte eyes the shuttlecock, while teammate Father Charlie Borja looks on during their men's C doubles title game against Eydie Uy and Noel Wong in the Tan Holdings badminton tournament on Saturday at the REM Center in Gualo Rai.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Keio University Women's Soccer Club's Ami Ishihara kicks the ball, while the CNMI's Melody Matson, left, goes for a block during the first half of their friendly game at the Oleai Sports Complex Field on Sunday.

Keio shuts out CNMI female strikers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A much cohesive Keio University Women's Soccer Club cruised to an easy 6-0 victory over the CNMI Women's National Team during a friendly game on Sunday at the Oleai

Sports Complex Field.

The Japanese team spread the pitch well, made accurate passes, and were in the right positions for their offensive attacks to

See **KEIO** on Page 26

